

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Theatre to fight live torch ban

The National Theatre has been refused permission by the Greater London Council to use a live torch flame in its forthcoming production of *The Oresteia*, which opens on Saturday, on the ground that it is irrelevant to the action of the play (Christopher Warman writes).

The theatre is to appeal against this ruling and the case will be heard on Thursday at Hammersmith Road Magistrates' Court. The National is particularly concerned that the application has been turned down for what appear to be artistic reasons, not those of safety.

SAS hero killed

A family in Co Durham was told last night that one of the heroes of the SAS raid on the Iranian Embassy in London last year (shown on the balcony, above), had died in a parachute accident in the Middle East. The victim, a sergeant, aged 34, is not being named for security reasons.

Three men with handguns held up staff at a branch of Bravington's, King's Cross, London and escaped with diamond rings worth £250,000 yesterday.

One fired a shot, later discovered to have been a blank.

£1m jewel raid

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One fired a shot, later discovered to have been a blank.

ITN meeting today

Members of the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians at Independent Television News which has been off the air since last Friday over their grading dispute, will meet today for an informal exchange of views with management yesterday.

Miners' choice

Yorkshire miners yesterday chose Mr Terry Pancher as their candidate for the Dearne Valley parliamentary constituency where Mr Edwin Wright, the Labour MP, has announced he will not seek re-election.

Girl strangled

Elaine Tse, aged 11, whose body was found in her smoke-filled bedroom on Sunday, had been strangled, the police said yesterday. Jewelry and £100 in cash had been taken from her home in Lansdowne Road, Bournemouth.

Foot asks Silkin to take defence post for Labour

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Mr Michael Foot, the Labour leader, yesterday tried to break a deadlock on his Shadow Cabinet appointments by asking Mr John Silkin, the Shadow Leader of the House, to take on the additional portfolio of defence.

Mr Silkin, who is a unilateralist, was one of the contenders for the Labour deputy leadership in September, and it is thought that the additional rôle would give impact to the party's case for disarmament.

The other option, canvassed among Labour MPs at the weekend, was Mr Stanley Orme. But he was ruled out yesterday.

Meanwhile, Mr Brynmor John, the former holder of the key defence post, is understood to have refused a new post as regional affairs spokesman. A similar offer was made to Mr William Rodgers after the Shadow Cabinet elections last year, and he refused it on the ground that it was a non-job.

After representations by other leading Labour frontbenchers, Mr John was yesterday being offered other alternatives, with social security as the most likely solution.

If Mr John accepted that, it would displace Mr Norman Buchanan, but it is possible that Mr Buchanan could return to his old field of agriculture, left

vacant by Mr Roy Mason's departure from the front bench.

The full list of Mr Foot's appointments are expected to be announced today.

The bulk of shadow ministers will be staying in their present posts. Two left-wingers who could have been in the running for defence, Mr Albert Booth and Mr Neil Kinnock, are expected to retain their jobs in transport and education respectively.

The big question mark last night was over Mr Eric Heffer, a new member of the Shadow Cabinet team. It is possible that he could be given some rôle with the inner circle.

Working in tandem with Mr Orme at industry and environment.

During the deputy leadership campaign Mr Silkin sent out a claim for an increase of at least £20 a week and had said that any discussions on productivity improvement should be divorced from the annual pay negotiations.

But company executives were adamant that this year's negotiations should encompass productivity improvements because of the company's poor performance compared with other European manufacturers and particularly with Japanese companies.

Steel: The Iron and Steel Trades' Federation met yesterday to discuss the company's plan to make a national pay award in this round but to restrict increases at plant level tied to productivity improvements.

The union delegation was led by Mr William Sims, the federation's general secretary, and

Three feared dead at sea as storms lash Britain

By Staff Reporters

Three fishermen were feared drowned yesterday after being washed overboard from a trawler in high seas to the south-east of Fair Isle, Shetland.

One body was recovered, but the search for the other two had to be called off as darkness fell and a severe north-westerly storm increased to hurricane force in the area.

A fourth man was badly hurt on board the trawler, which was rescued by the coastguard. The boat was heading for Sandwick in Shetland to take him to hospital.

It is thought that one of the dead men was washed overboard. His workmates tried to haul him back and were also washed overboard.

A British Airways helicopter tried to lift the casualty to safety, but had to abandon the attempt. The Clarkwood then tried to take him to Fair Isle, but was prevented from landing there by the weather.

West Midlands: Four new cars and a van worth £32,000 were buried under rubble when a 75ft-long, 12ft-high wall collapsed at a garage compound in Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Elmsford, Birmingham, reported winds of more than 70 mph at times.

Merseyside: Winds of 75 mph were recorded at the port radar station and the Liverpool pilot boat came off station 20 miles from port to seek shelter up the Mersey.

Bombardier: The Humber and the Ouse bridge on the A63 near Hull were closed to traffic and the bridge on the A63 near Hull were closed to traffic and the bridge on the A63 near Hull were closed to traffic.

Gloucestershire: Members of the Vale of the White Horse Hunt were diverted just in time from a waterlogged field which became live with electricity and killed six cows after power cables collapsed in high winds.

Anglesey: In Holyhead, a whirlwind tore off half of the county school's outstanding roof and lashed against classrooms, smashing windows and putting 12 classrooms out of action.

Hertfordshire: Police diverted traffic and blocked off a road as gale force winds uprooted trees and the local Methodist church in Letchworth and left it hanging on the side of the church.

Belfast was the sunniest place in the United Kingdom yesterday with 4.3 hours of sunshine.

Forecast, back page



Something for the children

Seamen aim to blockade all routes to N Ireland

By Our Labour Staff

Leaders of the National Union of Seamen yesterday ordered a total blockade of services between Northern Ireland and Britain in protest at the closure of the P & O Belfast-Liverpool ferry service.

A meeting of the union executive drew up plans for the blockade, from midnight tomorrow, after rejecting more militant proposals for a national one-day strike and blacking of the entire P & O fleet in Britain and Europe.

Services to be halted, if the executive's call is fully supported, will be the Townsend, Rymer, Seal, Stranrair and Larne, the Sealink crossings between Stranrair and Larne and Holyhead and Belfast, the Pandoro P & O Fleetwood-Larne and the Pandoro P & O freight operations between Liverpool and Belfast.

The union executive met early yesterday to consider a call from senior shop stewards at the main ferry ports for the national one-day strike and the blockade of the entire P & O fleet in Britain and Europe.

Stewards also attended the meeting and rejected both proposals by votes of 33-14 and 21-19 respectively.

Ford unions call off planned strike on pay

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

Union leaders representing 54,000 manual workers at Ford operations in the rest of Europe, more than 100,000 in all, threatened all-out strike which was due to start this morning.

They reached their decision after eight hours of talks. Unions and management are due to meet again tomorrow to discuss the company's plan to improve on the offer of a 5 per cent pay-rise in return for union concessions on efficiency proposals.

The unions said last night that they were also expecting the company to make other concessions on such as improved pensions and a shorter working week.

During yesterday's talks it is understood that the unions proposed a full-time panel of national officials to which problems of the union should be referred by joint works committees.

Ford had been insisting that any pay increase this year should be linked to improvement in efficiency to bring the 24 United Kingdom plants

more into line with Ford operations in the rest of Europe.

The unions had submitted a claim for an increase of at least £20 a week and had said that any discussions on productivity improvement should be divorced from the annual pay negotiations.

But company executives were adamant that this year's negotiations should encompass productivity improvements because of the company's poor performance compared with other European manufacturers and particularly with Japanese companies.

Steel: The Iron and Steel Trades' Federation met yesterday to discuss the company's plan to make a national pay award in this round but to restrict increases at plant level tied to productivity improvements.

The union delegation was led by Mr William Sims, the federation's general secretary, and

repeated its commitment to national negotiations.

Tanker drivers: Tarmac management yesterday refused to improve its offer of an 8.1 per cent rise to its 1,000 oil distribution workers. The Tarmac drivers had already voted to take industrial action if the offer was not improved.

Jobs Express heads off in search of work

"I have been looking for work since July," Mr. Daily Chand said as the Jobs Express, pulled out of Newcastle upon Tyne station with 125 unemployed youngsters aboard.

Mr Chand is 45. I'm 22. Every day I go to the office and I see a lot of people who are looking for work. I have been looking for work since July.

Mr Chand was made redundant by Hoover in July. His father by Babcock Corrosion Control. While continuing his

quest for work he helps old people fill in benefit claims in Southall. (Roger Berthoud writes).

The train, costing £100,000, is organised and sponsored by the TUC, member unions, and youth organisations. It will carry 25 extra passengers.

At the end of the journey, the train will stop at various points in the country, including a final stop in London.

Mr Michael Carr, aged 22, from Middlesbrough, has a diploma in business studies. Unable to find a suitable job, he worked for 11 months in an hotel bar before the company went into liquidation.

Receiving no wages, he accepted a degree course at Teesside Polytechnic but he has failed to gain a local authority grant.

At Edinburgh, there was a march through the city and a rally in an old cinema.

Science report Collisions that probe structure of matter

By The Staff of "Nature"

The most energetic collisions ever created by man are now under study at the European centre for nuclear research (CERN) in Geneva.

The accelerator concerned, the new proton-antiproton collider, which is a modification of an existing machine, has now been put into operation officially to the experimenters, but they are already at work, so eager are they to test the machine's performance under these extreme conditions.

The best measure of the energy of the collisions, in which protons and anti-protons annihilate each other, is the energy available in the experiment, which is the energy available in the experiment, which is the energy available in the experiment.

The particles are travelling within a few parts per million of the speed of light, and the collisions produce the structure in matter as it is created, creating showers of new particles, the "centres-of-mass" energy which is the energy available in the experiment, which is the energy available in the experiment.

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Text of Government proposal to review industrial relations

The following is the text of the proposals for the Government's industrial relations legislation, announced yesterday, on which it invites comments:

Introduction

1 The Government intend to introduce further legislation to improve the operation of the labour market by providing a fairer and more balanced work of industrial relations law and to curb a number of continuing abuses of trade union power. The Employment Act 1980 was an important first step in this process, particularly in relation to the closed shop, secondary picketing and industrial action. The Government believe that the time is now right to take a further step. Their proposals for legislation, to be introduced in this session of Parliament, are set out below.

2 The Government have drawn up their proposals after extensive consultations on the basis of the Green Paper on Trade Union Immunities (Green Paper, Cm 8300) and individuals submitted comments. These showed that there was a widespread public concern, particularly in developing their proposals on the closed shop, the experience of the operation of the Employment Act.

3 The consultations on the Green Paper have shown that there remains widespread public concern about the closed shop. Closed shop agreements restrict unacceptably the freedom of individuals to choose for themselves whether or not they wish to join a trade union. In some cases their existence is a barrier to the provision of restrictive practices and to improved efficiency and competitiveness.

4 Public concern has been increased in recent months by the actions of Sandwell and Walsall councils. Their enforcement of closed shop agreements, regardless of the wishes of their employees, and their dismissal of non-union employees regardless of their rights have reinforced the need for legislation to strengthen further the protection for individuals provided by the Employment Act.

5 The Employment Act, 1980, greatly increased the protection for individuals in a closed shop. It makes it unfair to dismiss an employee for non-membership of a trade union in a closed shop on three grounds:

(a) where the employee is an existing employee of the employer concerned before the closed shop agreement came into force and has not been a member of one of the specified trade unions since;

(b) where the employee can show a genuine objection to membership of the union on grounds of conscience or other deeply held personal conviction; or

(c) in the case of a new closed shop, where the agreement came into force (on August 15, 1980), where the agreement has not been approved by 80 per cent of

the employees concerned voting in a secret ballot.

The remedy for an employee who is unfairly dismissed is a complaint to an industrial tribunal which may award compensation, and, if it thinks it practicable, reinstatement.

6 The Government propose to reinforce these provisions in four ways:

(1) Increased compensation. The present levels of compensation available to closed shop victims do not act as a sufficient deterrent to an employer who is minded to dismiss an employee unfairly in order to enforce a closed shop agreement. Nor do they provide adequate compensation to dismissed employees, particularly low paid employees, whose dismissal is a result of the closed shop. The Government, therefore, propose to increase substantially the levels of compensation available in cases of unfair dismissal in a closed shop.

8 At present compensation for unfair dismissal for an "administrative" dismissal is limited to a maximum of £3,000 (ie, £130 times 30 weeks for a maximum of 20 years' service).

(a) a basic award of between half a week's pay and one and a half weeks' pay for each complete year of employment (depending on age) subject to a maximum of £3,000 (ie, £130 times 30 weeks for a maximum of 20 years' service);

(b) a compensatory award based on loss of earnings in the past year, subject to a maximum of £5,250 (ie, £130 times 40 weeks for a maximum of 40 years' service);

(c) an additional award of 26-52 weeks' pay, at the tribunal's discretion (subject to a maximum of £5,760) if the employer refuses to comply with an order for reinstatement.

The maximum award is £10,150 if no reinstatement order is made; and £16,910 if the employer does not comply with a reinstatement order.

9 In deciding whether to make an order of reinstatement the industrial tribunal must take into account three tests:

(a) whether the complainant wishes to be reinstated;

(b) whether it is practicable for the employer to comply with an order for reinstatement;

(c) where the complainant caused or contributed to some extent to his dismissal, whether it would be just to order reinstatement.

10 Under the Government's proposal an employee would be dismissed if he sought reinstatement then the following compensation would be available:

(a) a basic award calculated as now (ie, the present £3,000 maximum) but subject to a minimum of £2,000;

(b) a compensatory award calculated as now but with the upper limit abolished;



Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, who announced the proposals yesterday.

player to comply, compensation would be awarded as follows:

(a) a basic award calculated as above (ie, as now but subject to a minimum of £2,000);

(b) a compensatory award calculated as now but with the upper limit abolished;

(c) a special award of two and a half times annual salary subject to a minimum of £12,000.

If the tribunal made an order of reinstatement which was complied with, then the present rules would apply in any loss incurred because of the dismissal and reinstatement would be made good by the employer.

14 If the tribunal made an order of reinstatement which was not complied with, then the tribunal would make an additional award of three times the annual salary subject to a minimum of £15,000 (ie, £130 times 120 weeks for a maximum of 120 years' service).

15 This would mean that a man on average earnings (about £7,500) could expect a total compensation of over £20,000 if the tribunal decided it was not practicable for the employer to reinstate him and over £24,000 if the tribunal decided reinstatement was not practicable.

16 The Government propose that these enhanced levels of compensation should also apply to dismissal on grounds of trade union membership and activity.

(d) Interim relief

17 At present an employee who is dismissed for non-membership of a trade union can apply to an industrial tribunal for "interim relief" for an order requiring the employer to observe the terms of the closed shop agreement until the final hearing of the dismissal complaint. It is proposed that "interim relief" should be available to non-union employees dismissed for non-

membership of a trade union in a closed shop.

(e) Periodic review of existing closed shops

18 The Employment Act places an obligation on an employer setting up a new closed shop agreement to submit the agreement to a secret ballot of his employees (see paragraph 5(c) above). The Government believe that this procedure should now be applied to all existing closed shop agreements.

19 It is proposed, therefore, that any closed shop agreement entered into after the coming into force of the new legislation should be subject to a secret ballot of the employees covered by the agreement within twelve months of the new legislation coming into force. The ballot should be held at a period, perhaps three or five years, or

(b) where there has been a ballot, if it has not been held within the period (perhaps 80 per cent of those covered or 85 per cent of those voting) for the continuation of the closed shop.

Further ballots would be required at regular intervals (perhaps every three or five years) to be held. Anyone dismissed for non-membership in these circumstances would qualify for the proposed increased rates of compensation and be able to apply for interim relief as set out in paragraph 17.

(iv) Trade union contribution to compensation

20 In many cases of closed shop dismissals it is pressure (ie, the threat of industrial action) from a trade union which leads to the dismissal and which may prevent an employer agreeing to reinstatement. The Government believe that where such pressure is exercised the trade union should be more readily accountable and liable to pay a share of any compensation which the dismissed person is awarded.

21 The Employment Act has made it possible for an employer who has dismissed for non-union membership as a result of pressure from a trade union to "join" the union as a party to the proceedings, but he can do so only at the beginning of the proceedings. The tribunal may then order the union to reimburse the employer for some or all of the compensation awarded to the dismissed person.

22 The Government propose that in addition the dismissed employee should be able to "join" the trade union in the proceedings if the grounds that he has contributed to his dismissal by exercising pressure on the employer. Where a trade union, following a ballot by either employer or employee, was found to have acted to enforce dismissal in this way, an award for compensation against it would be made. The union would be liable to reimburse the employee from the union, instead of, as now with employer liability, from the employer. The compensation for the employee would be obtained through the normal process for the recovery of debt.

23 It is also proposed that joint employers should be treated at any stage in the proceedings.

24 The consultations on the Green Paper have shown that there is particular concern about the practice of requiring contractors to use only union labour. Such practices have become more prevalent in recent years, not least among local authorities and some nationalised industries.

25 The Government regard such practices as unacceptable. They are a means of compelling non-union employees who have no interest in being union members to join a union.

In some cases a small non-union firm may have no choice but to submit to the union labour requirement. But some local authorities have also invited tenders from, or included on a list of recognized contractors, firms which have agreed to use only union labour. The Government, therefore, propose that:

(a) any clause in a contract requiring the employment only of union labour or of persons who are members of a union should be void (ie, unenforceable at law); and

(b) the problem is often seen as being no more than the insistence on union labour only clauses in contracts. But some local authorities have also invited tenders from, or included on a list of recognized contractors, firms which have agreed to use only union labour. The Government, therefore, propose that:

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Trade union immunities

26 Trade unions enjoy a much wider legal immunity from individual officials or members. Under section 14 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, 1974, trade unions are given virtually unlimited immunity from actions in tort, even where they are engaged in industrial action, if the action is in support of a trade dispute. This means that trade unions cannot be sued for their unlawful acts or for unlawful actions of their officials or members on their behalf by their officials.

30 The Government do not accept that the breadth of the immunities granted to trade unions is justified. They are a means of compelling non-union employees who have no interest in being union members to join a union.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

More house sellers cut their prices

More house prices are beginning to fall than has been reported since the mid 1970s slump, according to the latest survey undertaken by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (Baron Phillips writes).

During the three months to the end of October more than a third of estate agents taking part in the survey reported declining house prices, compared with fewer than one in ten during the summer quarter.

The institution concludes that house owners are waiting for an upturn in the market because agents in some areas are receiving fewer instructions to sell than previously. At the same time, agents note that vendors are pricing their homes realistically as they encounter difficulty in finding buyers. Price-cutting has been generated in some areas, but the feeling among many agents is that there are now fewer inquiries from prospective purchasers.

Commenting on the survey, Mr John Thomas, the institution's spokesman, said: "Buyers are now in a commanding position and for the first time for many years there is a continuing trend of lower prices."

Charges dropped in £1/2m robbery

Charges against 10 men alleged to have been part of a £500,000 armed robbery in the City of London four years ago were dropped by a court yesterday after the prosecution offered no evidence.

The men were arrested by regional crime officers in a raid codenamed Operation Carter in June last year and were charged with offences connected with the robbery from security guards, one of whom was shot at a branch of Williams & Glyn's Bank on September 27, 1977.

Since their arrest, seven of the men accused of the robbery, two accused of dishonestly handling part of the proceeds of the raid, and a tenth man charged with impeding their arrest by providing a refuge, have been appearing on remand before magistrates at Reading.

But yesterday Mr Stephen Wooler, for the Director of Public Prosecutions, said: "The DPP takes the view that evidence could not be placed before the court." He said there had been "certain irregularities" and the admissions of four defendants could not be relied upon. He added that as a result of the irregularities two City of London policemen are shortly to stand trial.

Penelope Keith wins libel action

Penelope Keith, the actress, and her husband accepted substantial damages in settlement of a High Court libel action in London yesterday against *Private Eye*, the satirical magazine.

Miss Keith, aged 42, who stars in the BBC television series *The Monor Born*, and her husband, Det Constable Rodney Timson, aged 36, had complained about an article in October last year which implied that they had obtained a bracelet dishonestly.

An apology by the magazine, and Mr Richard Ingram, its editor, was read to the judge.

The case had been listed as a defended action to be heard by a jury, but a settlement was reached over the weekend.

The couple's address was given as Berkeley House, Hay Hill, Mayfair, London.

Policeman jailed

Police Constable John Newbegin, aged 30, who punched a defenceless prisoner and hit him in the groin, was jailed yesterday for nine months.

Newbegin, who is stationed at St Aldate's police station in Oxford, was convicted at Oxford Crown Court of causing actual bodily harm and common assault. He was cleared of another charge of causing actual bodily harm.

Mr Grenville Toomey, a bread seller, of Badswell Lane, Appleton, said he was beaten up after remonstrating with policemen who had arrested his son for being drunk.

Still few good jobs for women civil servants

Positive action to give women in the Civil Service genuine equality was called for yesterday. A seminar in London was told that their promotion chances are poorer and that although women make up 47 per cent of the white-collar Civil Service, only 13 per cent of the higher grades or women, virtually the same percentage as 1.5 years ago.

Palace fire

A fire broke out in the bedroom kitchen at Buckingham Palace yesterday but it had been put out by the time the fire brigade arrived.

Social worker in baby death case is promoted

From Our Correspondent, Cambridge

The social worker, who supervised the case of Jason Caesar, aged 19 months, who died from injuries inflicted by his mother and her lover, was promoted since the baby's death, it was revealed yesterday.

There were gasps from reporters at a press conference in Cambridge called by Mr Alan Jones, director of social services for Cambridgeshire, when he explained that the far from disciplinary action being taken against Mr Richard Davis, the social worker, he was now in charge of training student social workers and other medical staff involved at the Addenbrooks Psychiatric hospital in Cambridge.

"This was a promotion given to him on merit," Mr Jones said. "I hold the view that his judgement during his supervision of this case was reasonable, given the information available to him. He was promoted by my department and I am very happy about it." Mr Jones also rejected the need for any further inquiry into the case.

Christina Caesar, aged 25, the baby's mother, and Andrew Clark, aged 24, her lover, were convicted at Norwich Crown Court last week of the child's manslaughter and of wilfully ill-treating him over a period of three months until his death on November 5, last year.

They were each sentenced to five years' jail after the jury heard how the boy was found dead in a freezing room at the couple's home in Darwin Drive, Cambridge. His injuries had included two broken arms, burst bruises and severe internal wounding.

The child had been visited frequently by Mr Davis but, despite case conferences involving Mr Davis, doctors, health visitors, and nurses, it was decided that he should not be removed from his custody of his mother.

Mr Davis, aged 34, and earning £2,000 a year after his promotion, did not attend the press conference and was unavailable for comment afterwards, but Mr Jones said in a prepared statement: "Although Mr Davis had doubts, he did not believe that Mrs Caesar and Mr Clark were causing Jason's injuries. Indeed, after four case conferences, there were still reasonable grounds for that view."

"We would be interpreting with the benefit of hindsight if we said that the social workers assessment and that of each stage was faulty."

"In my view, Jason's death illustrates clearly the doubts and risks all professional workers have to live with where child abuse is suspected. They share their doubts fully with professionals from other disciplines in case conferences. In Jason's case, the conference decisions were that a place of safety order, removing Jason from his home, was not necessary."



Mr Alan Jones

Five-year secret of a lost wife

From Our Correspondent Winchester

A German businessman strangled his wife and dumped her body in a secluded lovers' lane on Watership Down six years ago, it was alleged at Winchester Crown Court yesterday.

Jeanette Maria Hinsch, aged 28, was wearing only a pair of panties and was wrapped in a blue blanket with a blanket over her head with electrical flex. Her decomposed body was found by a farm labourer in the ruins of an old farm cottage on the down at Echinswell, Hampshire.

She had been there for three weeks, but it was five years before the police identified her. They later arrested her husband, Ulf Hinsch, after his mother-in-law, Mrs Gretchen Bartelt, became suspicious about the disappearance of her daughter whom she called "Puppe," a pet name meaning doll.

Mrs Bartelt, who lives in Hamburg, watched a programme on German television about the Watership Down murders mystery and got in touch with the police. Mr David Calcutt, QC, for the prosecution, said the police matched fingerprints from the dead woman with those on a letter written by Mrs Hinsch to her mother.

Mr Hinsch, aged 43, of Orion Way, Braintree, Essex, denies murdering his wife. Mr Calcutt said the police had been faced with a big problem since the body was discovered in September 1975. Inquiries included the making of a death mask for circulation in newspapers.

He said Mrs Hinsch was 18 when she married Mr Hinsch in Germany in 1965. The couple moved to England and rented a house in Lyndhurst Avenue, Mill Hill, North London, where Mr Hinsch was the director of a shipping firm.

But Mrs Hinsch, dissatisfied with her standard of living, wanted to return to Germany, and the marriage broke down.

Mr Calcutt said Mr Hinsch explained his wife's disappearance by telling friends that she had gone off with another man. But he told his mother-in-law that she had walked out of the house.

He promised Mrs Bartelt that he would make inquiries and began by putting a notice in the personal column of *The Times* a month after his wife disappeared. It said: "Jeanette. Please contact Hamburg, U.R."

After Mrs Bartelt watched a television programme in December, 1975, on unsolved crimes, which featured the Watership Down mystery, she wrote to Mr Hinsch begging him to make inquiries with the police. He replied saying untruthfully that he had checked with Scotland Yard but the dead woman had been identified.

For three years Mr Hinsch and his mother-in-law lost contact, but in Feb. 1979, Mrs Bartelt began writing again and questioning Mr Hinsch.

The hearing was adjourned until today.

Bleak view of race relations

By Lucy Hodges

Many people think that race relations are getting worse, and will continue to deteriorate, according to a survey carried out for the Commission for Racial Equality before this year's urban riots.

However, most of the white people questioned (67 per cent) say that they have never minded the presence of black people in Britain and say that they are aware that blacks have a worse status than themselves in British society.

Most of the people questioned in the survey believe that ethnic minorities have worse relations with the police than whites and find it more difficult to get jobs.

The survey, by the Opinion Research Centre, which was published yesterday, painted a sombre picture of race relations and the position of blacks, Mr David Lane, the commission's chairman, said it underlined the commission's regular demand for government action, coming, as it did, just before the publication of Lord Scarman's report on the Brixton riots.

"This report by Lord Scarman is going to be so important and relevant that it would be disastrous if it was not acted upon," Mr Lane said. "The situation now is much clearer to politicians than it was a year ago."

But Mr Lane found it encouraging that people were becoming increasingly aware of the disadvantage suffered by blacks and said the survey suggested that the Government need not fear a white backlash if it introduced measures to improve the position of ethnic minorities.

The survey, carried out between December 12, 1980, and March 23 this year, shows that there is much greater pessimism about race relations than in 1975 when a similar survey was done. Six years ago only 13 per cent of those questioned thought race relations had deteriorated compared with 47 per cent this year.

Ethnic minorities are inclined to be more pessimistic than whites and their children are particularly gloomy. West Indians are much more convinced than any other group that ethnic minority relations with the police are worse than white people's and their young are almost unanimous on the point.

Ethnic minorities blamed the police more than anyone else for trouble between them and minority groups; whites most commonly blamed young black people.

The Chinese appeared to be most optimistic of all the groups.

The commission said yesterday that it was surprised by one of its findings, that white people living in areas with a big ethnic population were more likely to be pessimistic about race relations than those in white areas.

Race Relations in 1981: An attitude survey from the Commission for Racial Equality, 10-12 Abingdon Street, London, SW1E 5EE; no price.

Clinics are harming NHS, report claims

By Annabel Ferriman Health Services Correspondent

The rapid expansion of the private sector in medicine is undermining the National Health Service by making it harder to recruit nurses and by taking doctors away from their health service patients, it was said yesterday.

Some doctors deliberately keep their waiting lists long to ensure a demand for their services from private patients who want to jump the queue, it was alleged.

The allegations were made by the authors of a new report, published yesterday by the Politics of Health Group and Fightback, two socialist health groups.

It attacks the idea that Britain should move away from its present system to an insurance-based scheme, a change being considered by the Government. It says a system where doctors are paid a fee for each procedure instead of a salary, resulted in unnecessary operations and wasteful tests, as in the United States.

The health service, it adds, looks after many groups, such as the old, mentally handicapped and chronically ill, which private insurance schemes are not interested in. The report says that countries with insurance-based systems never cater so well for those groups as Britain does.

It calls for a licensing system for private clinics and hospitals, which would involve checks.

Mr Frank Dobson, Labour MP for Holborn and St Pancras, South, introducing the report at a Commons press conference yesterday, said all private schools had to be licensed and a similar system should be introduced for private clinics.

Going Private (available from Politics of Health Group, 9 Poland Street, London W1; price 70p, postage and packing 30p).



New hope for orphan lambs

Mr John Read, Shepherd of the Year, from Hampshire, showing lambs yesterday that are being reared on an artificial feed in pellet form. The occasion was the launching of a scheme to rescue and feed more than three million new born lambs, between 15 and 20 per cent of the total, which die every year in Britain from starvation and exposure (John Young writes from Royston, Hertfordshire).

It is claimed that the scheme can save farmers thousands of pounds, and substantially reduce the EEC's deficit in lamb meat at a time when, thanks to new Community regulations, prospects for sheep farmers are brighter than for years. The scheme is an extension of a feeding system introduced by the Volac group.

The firm has now produced an artificial feed in pellet form which it says enables lambs to reach a slaughter weight of 35 kilograms in 14 to 16 weeks. That compares with 20 to 25 weeks if they are reared with ewes on grass.

Irish border security Crazy frontier that is impossible to seal

From Christopher Thomas, Kesh, co Fermanagh

The Irish border cuts through remote countryside with only the cows to cross from nation to nation. It divides villages and streets, rivers, ditches, bridges, even houses. And it is absolutely impossible to seal.

There must therefore be considerable doubt about the impact of the arrival of 600 extra soldiers from the Spearhead Battalion on this 303 miles of erratic frontier. If they never slept it would mean two extra men a mile, and there are thousands of footpaths and farm tracks for killers to cross.

Things have changed, however, in the past few years. The Cortinas much favoured by the Garda, a now often be discovered lurking behind a farm gate, two tall aerials on the roof. One is for their own use, the other for listening to the RUC across the border.

The will to defeat terrorism is stronger than in the days when Irish prime ministers had to justify spending millions in protecting a border they did not want.

Now the enemy is the Provisional IRA's Marxist, totalitarian threat, and the two armies and police forces work well together.

In a decade, the number of Protestants murdered on the border has crept into three figures. In co Fermanagh alone, the victims number about seventy. Most had connections with the security forces, but almost every Protestant on the border has some connexion, actual or distant, with the police or the Ulster Defence Regiment.

There are fathers, uncles, brothers, and cousins who don uniforms and head for the hills two, three, or four nights a week. They are a closely knit community, the fraternity made and strengthened by a sense of siege.

Members of the security forces living on the border have a nightmare existence.

Many are small farmers and a high-powered rifle can easily pick them off as they plough fields or tend animals.

The countryside is beautiful, much of it magnificent farming land handed down from the planters of 400 years ago. The land is obviously worth a fight. But there is more to it than that: it is because they see their history and their culture at stake that wealthy men join the Ulster Defence Regiment or the police for a relatively meagre sum. It is obvious that these frontiersmen are not dying for £40 a week.

It sometimes seems a crazy border. Country roads meander across it and back again without so much as a white line to tell you. Customs posts are at some of the main crossings but they are essentially for EEC purposes. Smuggling is profitable and easy.

South of the border the Irish army's role is strictly that of armed support for the police. It has no powers of arrest.

Catching the border killers is almost as impossible as sealing the border. The murderers live in Dundalk, and other dreadful, dingy little towns on the southern side, and they are known for what they are. They are photographed, fingerprinted, filed and documented. And left to roam free.

A policeman can know in his heart things he cannot prove in law, and the cumbersome, cross-border legal machinery is just short of useless. Consequently, the number of killers arrested for the relentless murder of border Protestants is absurdly low.

The border, in the final analysis, is as good a piece of protection as the IRA in the south, and "loyalists" terrorists in the North, could hope for. And, there, perhaps lies the irony.

The Alternative Approach to Banking

LISTENING IS ONE THING. HEARING IS QUITE ANOTHER.

A lot of people claim to be good listeners, while at the same time contriving to be deaf to things they don't wish to know, or don't understand.

But hearing is another matter. If you hear what someone is saying, that implies it has sunk in. 'I hear you' people say, meaning they've got the message.

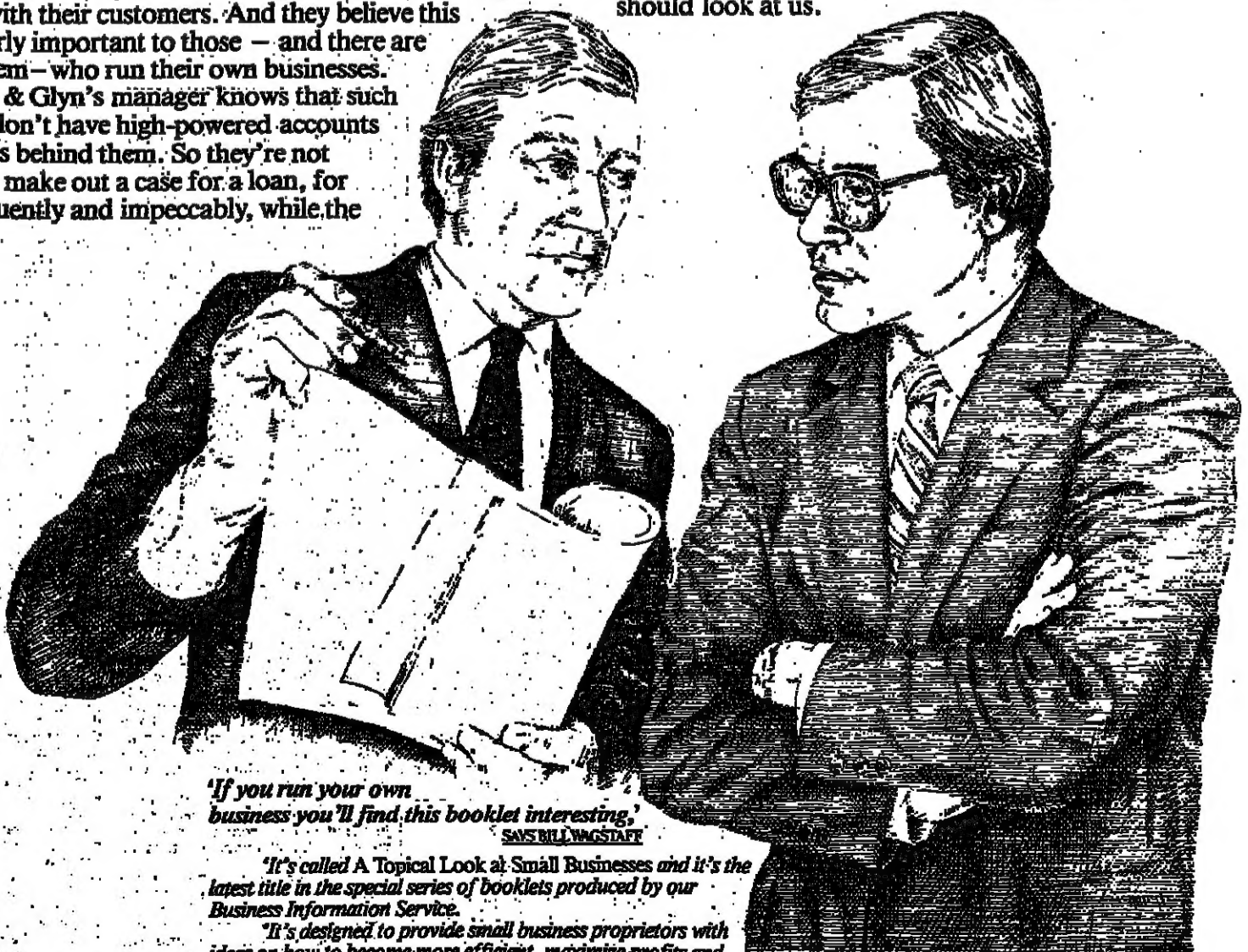
It's all very relevant when you're having a dialogue with your bank manager. A dialogue — not a monologue, with one doing all the talking and the other all the listening. Problems are seldom properly solved if they're not properly discussed.

At Williams & Glyn's our managers believe in having dialogues with their customers. And they believe this is particularly important to those — and there are many of them — who run their own businesses. A Williams & Glyn's manager knows that such customers don't have high-powered accounts departments behind them. So they're not expected to make out a case for a loan, for example, fluently and impeccably, while the

manager sits back and listens in open-mouthed admiration, convinced first go. No. Our managers know that putting a case together for a loan, even though it's a sound one, is far from easy. So they're always ready to offer advice, to see if a proposition can be knocked into shape, and to search for reasons why they can lend rather than reasons why they can't.

The way we look at it, the relationship between a bank manager and a customer should be that of a partnership trying to find a solution, not two antagonists fighting over unnecessary problems.

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Appeal judges allow evicted man to continue his fight

By Richard Ford

A builder whose family were evicted from their cottage when a solicitor insisted on his right to buy it back was yesterday allowed by judges in the Court of Appeal to fight for his home at a full trial.

As the judgment was being made the solicitor's daughter, Mrs Daryl Brochie, who had planned to live in the cottage on her marriage, was recovering in hospital from an overdose of drugs.

Her father, Mr. Richard Langdale, blamed the pressure of the dispute on Mr. Thomas Danby, aged 43, for the breakdown of Mrs Brochie's health, saying: "The doctors say the pressure is at least part of the problem, caused by the odium heaped on my wife and myself". He said of the judgment: "Naturally I am disappointed, but I cannot say any more at this stage."

He had heard Lord Denning, sitting with Lord Justice Dunn and Lord Justice Fox, rule that a full trial should hear the issues of whether Mr Langdale could have given disinterested advice to Mr Danby in the sale of his own property and the sale agreement was "unconscionable" because it was between a solicitor and a working man in desperate need to house his family. Those issues, Lord Denning said, had not been raised at a hearing in 1979 when the validity of the "buy back" clause was upheld.

The cottage in Dale Road, Elloughton, near Hull, was sold to Mr Danby, and his wife by Mr Langdale for £2,550 in 1964, with a clause that the solicitor could buy it back at its original price at any time during the next 21 years. The solicitor arranged an introduction with a building society and the balance of the purchase price, £400, was advanced by him on second mortgage.

During the next 14 years, Mr Danby paid off the mortgage and did a work of his own. In 1979, Mr Langdale exercised his option to buy back the cottage because one of his three daughters was marrying. He offered Mr Danby, married with three teenage children, the original price plus a payment of £3,500. The house is now worth £25,000.

In September this year the Danbys were evicted from the cottage which remains empty and locked. They had been rehoused by relatives and offered a council house. They had not come to the court hearing because they believed to be on holiday in Wales, Lord Denning said.

The eviction, he added, had been carried out in the full glare of publicity. The effect of the story was that a solicitor had taken advantage of Mr Danby and was using a process of law to evict him.

Lord Denning had sympathy for Mr and Mrs Langdale, who had rushed back from

holiday in France to face the crisis. Their friends have looked askance at them, others have had nothing to do with them. Their daughter has suffered a collapse. By contrast, the Danbys did not suffer much," he said.

He hoped the issues would be aired at a full trial and said that an action alleging negligence brought by Mr Danby against Payne and Payne, solicitors in Hull for whom Mr Langdale is a consultant, should be heard at the same time. The publicity had "cast a black shadow over Mr Langdale. The innuendo left by the publicity is that he, a lawyer, has in the course of duty taken an unfair advantage over a poor man who was not represented and that he has followed this up by the process of the law."

Lord Denning added that it was important for Mr and Mrs Langdale that the black shadow should be removed. It could only be done at a full trial.

Agreeing with Lord Denning, Lord Justice Fox said the transaction was an unusual one because it gave Mr Langdale the right to repurchase over a long period, making no provision for an increase in the property's value or inflation.

He added that Mr Langdale was a solicitor and drew up the documents, while Mr Danby did not have any experience of property matters, did not have independent advice, and might have misunderstood.

Law Report, page 12

Whitehall brief

Thatcher's new-style man for all summits

By Peter Hennessy



Sir Robert Armstrong: A style that camouflages power

At the beginning of this month Sir Robert Armstrong, aged 54, the cultivated, music-loving Secretary of the Cabinet, was already the most powerful public servant in the kingdom, calibrating the flow of business through the Cabinet and its committees and supervising the work of the security and intelligence services on behalf of the Prime Minister.

In the second week of November, thanks to Mrs Margaret Thatcher's desire to disband the Civil Service Department and the departure of Sir Ian Bancroft into early retirement, Sir Robert, as joint Head of the Home Civil Service with Sir Douglas Wess of the Treasury, acquired responsibility for senior appointments in the public service, the honours system, the efficiency, management and security of the Civil Service, and another substantial tranche of influence.

Whitehall has not seen such a concentration of administrative power into a single pair of hands since the period 1956-62, when the late Lord Normanbrook combined the offices of Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service.

Two questions are raised about Sir Robert's role as a result of the bureaucratic consequences of the Prime Minister's dislike of the old CSD. Does he now wield a degree of power inappropriate in an appointed person as opposed to an elected person? Is the burden of his new "Poh-Poh" position, top

divided between two permanent secretaries on the retirement of Lord Normanbrook.

A quick glance at the international element of Sir Robert's brief will illustrate the point. In addition to the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference, a gathering dear to Lord Normanbrook's heart, he must prepare the Cabinet secretariat and economic summit of world leaders, EEC summits, plus regular bilateral meetings

with the Federal German Chancellor, the French President and the Irish Taoiseach.

Such diplomacy means he is out of the country for substantial periods. Even with a second permanent secretary to look after the Management and Personnel Office or him, in the person of Mr John Cassels, Sir Robert will need to become involved every time one of the permanent secretaries in charge of a commanding height of the bureaucracy resists the reformist impulses of Mr Cassels and his team.

Power sits easily on Sir Robert's shoulders. His relaxed style camouflages the immense of his office in a way that the brisk, overly efficient manner of his predecessor, Sir John Hunt (now Lord Hunt of Tanworth) did not. As one seasoned Cabinet Office watcher put it last week: "John was the iron hand in the iron glove. Robert is a much more sympathetic figure."

But the power is certainly there, stemming not just from his position at the heart of the government machine but also from the esteem in which he is held by the Prime Minister, who inherited Sir John but appointed Sir Robert. The Hunt-Armstrong comparison has been a prominent feature of Whitehall talk since the changeover in October, 1979.

A typical example involved the observation, "Mrs Thatcher had an enormous respect for John, but she thought he tended to push

her along when she was not quite ready. She trusts Robert's judgment, trusts him to get a solution, to smooth out problems. She listens to him a good deal about what is going on in Whitehall and about summits. John was always sorting things out; Robert behaves in a less autocratic manner."

Sir Robert is a traditional small "c" conservative. He gives the impression of never having entertained the slightest doubt about highly convenient if somewhat threadbare constitutional conventions like collective Cabinet responsibility and ministerial responsibility.

Although by no means immune from new thinking, he has no time for reformist concepts like freedom of information which he would see as a transatlantic notion alien to British constitutional practice.

For all his recent accretion of power, his old-fashioned, highly estimable propriety makes Sir Robert the last person to capitalize on the leverage it affords him.

It will be intriguing to see in the five and a half years left to him in the Cabinet Office whether he can succeed where Lord Normanbrook failed in successfully managing both Cabinet business and the Civil Service while warding off the appellation of "deputy prime minister" that plagued Lord Armstrong in his last years at the summit of the hierarchy.

Control unit prisoner seeks Lords appeal

By Frances Gibb

A prisoner sought leave yesterday to claim damages in the House of Lords for his detention for six months in the controversial control unit set up in 1974 at Wakefield Prison to deal with trouble-makers.

Mr Michael Williams, who at the time was serving a 14-year sentence for armed robbery, is appealing on the strength of one of the findings of Mr Justice Tudor Evans, who ruled last May that although his detention was lawful, the Home Office had breached prison rules.

Yesterday Mr Michael Beloff, QC, for Mr Williams, told the Court of Appeal that it was on that one crucial point that Mr Justice Evans had found in Mr Williams' favour: that the Home Office had broken solitary confinement procedure laid down in Prison Rule 43.

The breach arose "in that there had been no full reconsideration, as the rule required, on a monthly basis, for the appellant's continued detention in the control unit", he said.

Mr Williams, whose action is supported by the National Council for Civil Liberties, was detained in the now-disbanded unit between August 23, 1974, and January 18, 1975.

Last year he attempted to sue the Home Office, claiming that his detention constituted false imprisonment; that it was not authorised under the Prison Act, 1952, nor by the rules made under that act; that it constituted a cruel and unusual punishment; and was contrary to the Bill of Rights.

He also claimed that it involved a breach of the rules of natural justice, which should give him an opportunity to make representations on why he was there, Mr Beloff said.

Mr Justice Evans had dismissed his claim except on the crucial point that there was a breach of the prison rules. But on that, the judge had said it was not for the court to adjudicate and he had refused to award damages. The same would be true for the Court of Appeal.

Rather than appeal to the Court of Appeal, therefore, where his case was certain to be dismissed, Mr Williams had sought to go straight to the Lords.

Mr Justice Cumming-Bruce, sitting with Mr Justice Brightman and Mr Justice Ackner, agreed that at first sight he thought that, as a matter of constitutional law, the principle was one of general importance.

The hearing was adjourned until today.

More jail riots feared

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

More trouble is likely in the prisons unless there are reforms Mr Andrew Macfarlane, chairman of the Association of Members of Boards of Visitors, said yesterday.

Boards of visitors are made up of members of the public appointed to act as watchdogs in prisons.

He said that if the indefensible squalid conditions in many prisons continued there would almost certainly be further disturbances by prisoners and staff industrial action. The introduction of partly suspended sentences, a proposal by Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, would provide no solution.

Mr Macfarlane was expressing support for Mr John McCarthy, the governor of Wormwood Scrubs, who in a letter to *The Times* last week described himself as managing a "large penal dustbin".

FUNGICIDE KILLED 2M LETTUCES

From Our Correspondent Manchester

Two neighbouring nurserymen lost their winter crop of more than two million lettuces when they treated them with a fungicide. Yesterday three years later, the growers, Mr Robert Bond and Mr Roy Lyons, of Hesketh Bank, near Southport, Merseyside, won damages in the High Court in Manchester.

Lawyers talked in a corridor for three hours before settling their dispute with the fungicide suppliers, Robert Lunt & Sons, of Exchange Street East, Liverpool, and Crow Chemicals of Huddersfield. Mr Bond was awarded damages of £150,000 and Mr Lyons, £24,000. The defendant firm will also pay £62,500 costs.

The court was told that in October, 1978, when the two growers applied the fungicide, Tubergan, the lettuces died. It was found to contain a weedkiller, atrazine.

Attack on move to alter performing right law

By Kenneth Gosling

The Performing Right Society has criticized a motion by Mr Leslie Huchfield, Labour MP for Nuneaton, calling for the society's reform.

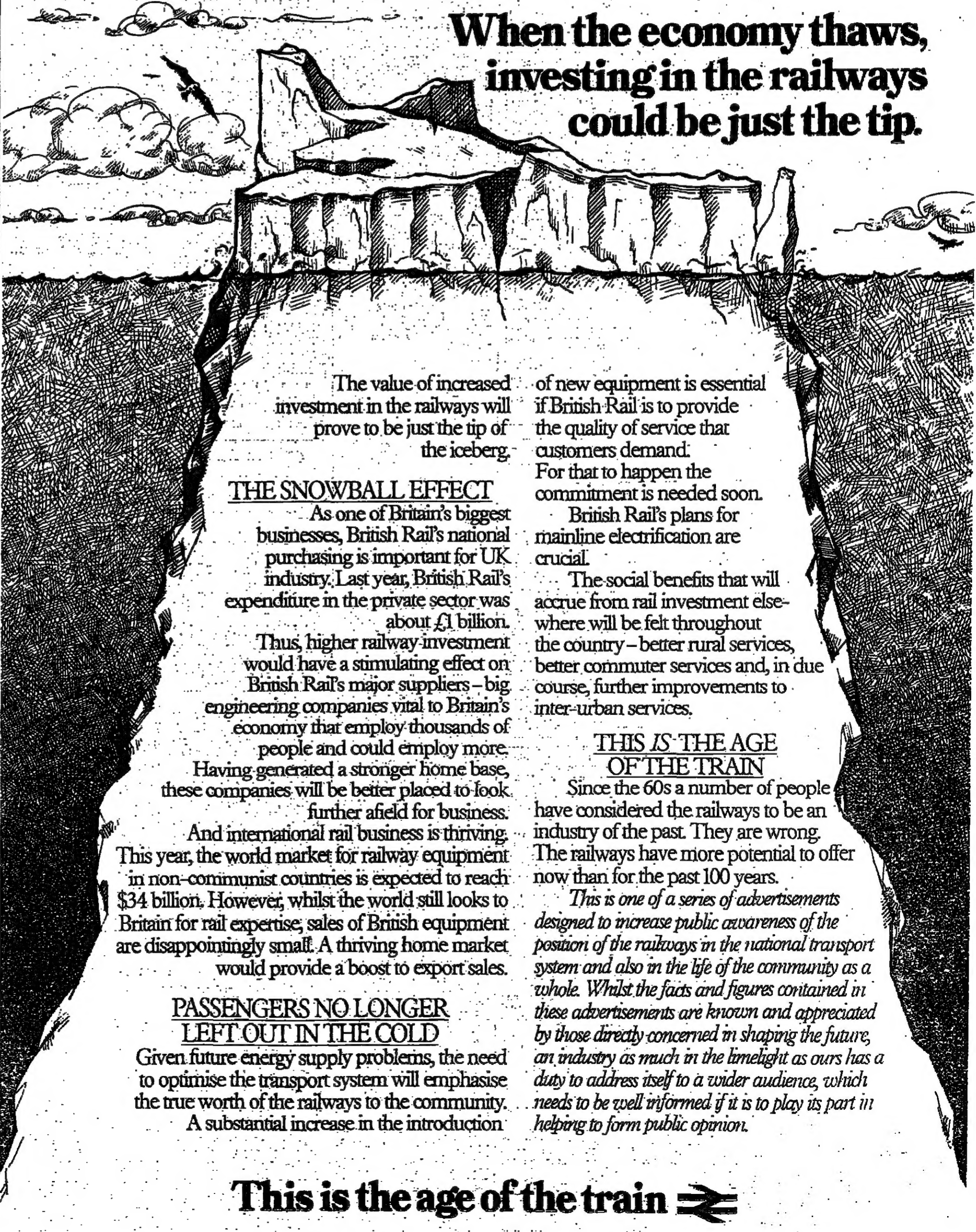
In a letter to Mr Huchfield, the society's chief executive, asks him to correct publicly statements made in the House of Commons earlier this year.

Mr Huchfield's motion, which he has put down for debate next Friday, calls for the reform of the whole system of compulsory payments to the society "so that composers, lyricists and workers throughout the British music industry may receive their due reward". He also wants the Government to introduce a system to waive royalty payments for small premises such as pubs, public houses and hairdressers.

The society says there is no valid reason why any enterprise, large or small, which uses the copyright property of others should not pay a reasonable fee.

The society has called an extraordinary general meeting for December 16 to seek approval of an amendment to the articles of association giving all members access to the list of top-earning full members, whose earnings through the society entitle them to additional votes. All full members get ten votes each and associate members, one. The top-earners get ten extra votes and are known as 20-vote members.

When the economy thaws, investing in the railways could be just the tip.



The value of increased investment in the railways will prove to be just the tip of the iceberg.

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Thus, higher railway investment would have a stimulating effect on British Rail's major suppliers - big engineering companies vital to Britain's economy that employ thousands of people and could employ more.

Having generated a stronger home base, these companies will be better placed to look further afield for business.

And international rail business is thriving. This year, the world market for railway equipment in non-communist countries is expected to reach \$34 billion. However, whilst the world still looks to Britain for rail expertise, sales of British equipment are disappointingly small. A thriving home market would provide a boost to export sales.

of new equipment is essential if British Rail is to provide the quality of service that customers demand. For that to happen the commitment is needed soon.

British Rail's plans for mainline electrification are crucial.

The social benefits that will accrue from rail investment elsewhere will be felt throughout the country - better rural services, better commuter services and, in due course, further improvements to inter-urban services.

THIS IS THE AGE OF THE TRAIN

Since the 60s a number of people have considered the railways to be an industry of the past. They are wrong. The railways have more potential to offer now than for the past 100 years.

This is one of a series of advertisements designed to increase public awareness of the position of the railways in the national transport system and also in the life of the community as a whole. Whilst the facts and figures contained in these advertisements are known and appreciated by those directly concerned in shaping the future, an industry as much in the limelight as ours has a duty to address itself to a wider audience, which needs to be well informed if it is to play its part in helping to form public opinion.

This is the age of the train ➡

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Japanese denial on Allen cash

Tokyo.—The management of the Japanese magazine *Shunju* formally denied that Mr Richard Allen, President Reagan's National Security Adviser, had received \$10,000 (£5,250) for arranging an interview with Mrs Nancy Reagan, the President's wife, last January.

The Justice Department is reported to be investigating the possibility that Mr Allen received \$10,000 for arranging the interview instead of the \$1,000 admitted by the White House.

Mr Katsuro Ishizaka, speaking on behalf of the Japanese women's journal, said the magazine only paid \$1,000 to Mr Allen, and that it had been understood from the start that the money would be given to some charitable institution.

Jail sentence on editor

Madrid.—A Spanish court sentenced a magazine editor to six months and one day's imprisonment for insulting the head of state, Señor Javier Sánchez Erazuán, who was the editor of *Horas y Puntos de Vista*, a Basque magazine, last February, when the insulting material was published.

The court sentenced the journalist to be convicted in less than a week (Harry Debelius writes).

It was not immediately certain whether Señor Sánchez Erazuán would actually have to serve the sentence, since normally in Spain anyone convicted to a sentence of less than one year is released on probation.



Heikal removed to hospital

Cairo.—Mr Muhammad Heikal, Egypt's best-known journalist, arrested on President Sadat's orders in September, has been moved from prison to a hospital to be treated for kidney trouble.

Mr Hashem Fouad, a kidney specialist and chairman of the Cairo University Hospital, said Mr Heikal, who was admitted to the Kasr el-Eini hospital, "was doing fine." He added that Mr Heikal suffered from kidney stone troubles for several years.

S Africans kill 114 guerrillas

Windhoek.—South African troops killed 114 Swapo (South-West Africa People's Organisation) guerrillas during the past two weeks, according to Defence Force headquarters.

The latest number killed in a single incident was 17, when a group of about 20 was ambushed crossing the border into Namibia from southern Angola. Some guerrillas committed suicide when surrounded by security forces in the past week, the statement added, without giving figures.

Briton in Iran jail 'well'

Mr Andrew Pyke, the British businessman held without trial in Iran, has received his first consular visit for nearly six months and is apparently in reasonable health, the Foreign Office said.

Mr Nicholas Barrington, the head of the British interest section based in the Swedish Embassy in Tehran, saw Mr Pyke in Karaj prison, 25 miles west of the Iranian capital, and reported that parcels appeared to be getting through to him.

EEC meeting postponed

The meeting of EEC ministers on November 20, at which it was expected that a common fisheries policy could at last be agreed, has had to be postponed because of the Danish general election, on December 8.

In the long negotiations, the Danes have proved to be most resistant to proposals which have the general support of the other member states.

Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, who is in the chair of this Council of Ministers until the end of the year, is pressing for a settlement in December.

Haig arrives in Mexico

Mexico City.—Mr Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State, arrived here for a 24-hour visit to try to persuade Mexican leaders that a communist military buildup in Nicaragua must be taken seriously.

The visit comes a day after big anti-American protests here.

British troops in Sinai will act in support role

By David Spence

Britain, France, Italy and the Netherlands announced yesterday that they will contribute to the proposed multinational force in Sinai next March, after the Israeli withdrawal. Their decision, which is the result of intense diplomatic manoeuvring, has the support of the European Community as a whole.

The British contingent will be about 100 men, Mr Humphrey Atkins, the Lord Privy Seal, told the Commons yesterday.

They will be support troops, such as Royal Signals and Royal Engineers, and will presumably, as is normal in such operations, carry small arms.

Although the Egyptian Government welcomed the European acceptance of the United States request to participate in the force immediately on being notified, the official Israeli response was still awaited last night. A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Tel Aviv said that Israel was unlikely to accept the European offer.

Throughout the past six weeks of negotiations on the matter, before delivering the Israeli verdict under the terms of the agreement, Israel and Egypt have a veto over the participants in the force.

The diplomatic problem of trying to devise a form of support which would carry the support of the ten members of the European Community itself, satisfy the United States which has responsibility for the force, avoid alienating the more extreme Arab states on the one hand and satisfy Israeli objections on the other, was immense.

It has been attempted by drafting two statements. The first announced, in identical terms, their acceptance by the four nations, and the second, added to the Israeli and Egyptian statements, plus a further statement explaining their position, delivered yesterday.

The acceptance by the four is based on four conditions:

- (i) The Force exists solely for the purpose of maintaining peace in Sinai following Israeli withdrawal. It has no other role.
- (ii) The Force is being established in its present form in the absence of a United Nations decision on an international force and its position will be reviewed should such a decision become possible.
- (iii) Participation by the four governments in the Force will not be taken either as committing them to excluding them from participation in such other international peace keeping arrangements as have been or may be established in the region; and
- (iv) Participation in the

Force will be subject to the decision of the United Nations.

It welcomes the achievement of peace between Israel and Egypt as a first step towards that goal. But it adds that the force, which is to be established in the Sinai, is quite distinct from and independent of the rest of the Camp David process.

In addition, they express their firm support for the Egyptian Government and people and their belief in the need for stability and continuity in Egypt.

Israel hint of probable veto on Europeans

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, Nov 23

The Israeli Foreign Ministry hinted strongly tonight that Israel would press ahead with an earlier threat to veto the participation of Britain, France, Italy and Holland in the multinational force due to start peacekeeping patrols in the Sinai desert next April.

Within hours of the joint publication of the EEC conditions for joining the force and the speeches made to the individual parliaments of the would-be participants, the Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem commented tersely: "Statements made public up to now seem to be in contradiction of the Camp David accord."

The spokesman went on to announce that a final announcement of Israel's stand would be made after a cabinet meeting on which "would discuss the latest developments in the complex of problems linked to the participation of the European countries."

In private, Israeli sources have indicated that the conditions laid down by the Europeans are unacceptable. The governments of Britain and Greece are being primarily blamed for preventing the EEC as a whole adopting a public position that Israel could have accepted.

Foreign observers foresee a chance of the various statements made by EEC ministers today healing the wide gap which has grown up between the European and Israeli approaches to the Middle East peace process. There was anger here that public reference should have been made to the Venice declaration, which has been flatly rejected by a large majority in the Knesset.

From the outset of the present bitter dispute about conditions for joining the force, Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, has insisted that the EEC contingents should be sent in the context of Camp David and that no reference be made to the Venice document, which advocates bringing the Palestine Liberation Organization into the peace negotiations.

Israeli sources indicated that Mr Begin would guarantee wide support in the Cabinet if he were to use the power of veto granted to Israel under the terms of Camp David.

Saudi peace plan runs into rough weather

From Godfrey Morrison, Fez, Morocco, Nov 23

The Saudi Arabian Middle East peace formula—the eight-point Fahd Plan—ran into heavy weather today at a meeting of foreign ministers presided over by Wednesday's Arab League summit.

The plan, submitted formally yesterday by Prince Saud al-Faydal, the Saudi Foreign Minister, met strong opposition from some hardline Arab states such as Libya, Syria and Iraq at a four-hour closed session, conference services said.

The plan is widely interpreted as offering implied *de facto* recognition of Israel in return for major Israeli commitment to appear to have expected the opposition the plan would arouse among Arab hardliners.

A supplement of the Saudi newspaper *Okaz*, widely distributed here today, published the text of the eight-point plan which the Arab League states the Saudis have said are necessary for Middle East peace.

These are an "end to unlimited United States support to Israel; an end to Israeli 'occupation' of Arab lands; a withdrawal of Israeli troops from the West Bank, Golan Heights, and the Sinai Peninsula; and an acceptance that the Palestinians are the basic element in the Middle East equation."

So polarized has opinion in the Arab world become that, in some hardline quarters, the very fact that the Fahd Plan is contained in a newly-published collection of essays, *Storm Camps*, by 24 leading DRC theologians, ministers, and members.

Also expected to be discussed later today is the proposed participation by four European countries—Britain, France, the Netherlands and Italy—in a Sinai monitoring force. Sir Simon Dawkins, British ambassador to Morocco, gave a statement today on this to the delegations attending the conference.

Once again the polarisation of opinion in the Arab world is such that European participation in the Sinai force, one aspect of the Camp David process, is interpreted by many in the Arab world as implying total and unqualified European commitment to Camp David. Such a view persists despite the reservation about Camp David expressed by the Europeans and their open support for new initiatives such as the Fahd Plan.

As if the anguish about the Fahd Plan and the divisions between moderate and hardline "steadfastness" groups (the PLO, Syria, Algeria, Libya and South Yemen) were not enough, this week's talks will also have to deal with bilateral quarrels among Arab states. Q. Beirut: Syria in its first position in the Sinai force, Saudi peace plan said it will study and discuss the plan in a "brotherly spirit" at the Arab summit, Damascus Radio reported.



Prince Saud: Arab hardline opposition.

MODERATE ARABS ASK FOR ARMS

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, Nov 23

Palestinian Arabs advocating moderation in the Arab League today asked the military government to supply West Bank villages with arms to defend themselves against terrorists.

Mr Mustapha Duden of Habbaniya, a former member of the Qatariya of Beit Sahour, spoke to reporters at the funeral of Yusuf al-Khatib, another moderate, who died yesterday from wounds sustained in a terrorist attack last night.

The man headed district branches of the Village Leagues, promoted by the Israeli military government to counter the influence of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the West Bank. The PLO has called them quinquies.

Mr al-Khatib was chairman of the Ramallah District Village League. His son was also killed in the ambush.

Mr Duden, a former Jordanian Cabinet minister, arrived in Balin village for the funeral with an armed bodyguard. He said that the villagers were not requesting Israeli protection but means to protect themselves.

"I say to all Palestinians: let us over the world that the murderers will never represent the Palestinian nation," he said. The true Palestinian leaders were those who remained at home and were seeking peace and life for everybody. Arabs and Jews, "We condemn political assassination everywhere," whether Arabs or Jews, he added.

The funeral was attended by Mr al-Khatib's neighbours in Balin but there were few outside the village. The military government was conspicuous by its absence but the Governor of Ramallah and a party paid a condolence call on the bereaved family directly after the interment.



President Reagan announcing that he had vetoed the stopgap funding resolution.

Backing for apartheid deplored Afrikaners attack own church

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg, Nov 23

The Dutch Reformed Church (DRC), the biggest and most influential of the Afrikaner churches, has been attacked from within its own ranks for its support of racial segregation and its close identification with Afrikaner nationalism and the ruling National Party.

The attack, which is seen here as one of the most remarkable developments in the recent history of the church, is contained in a newly-published collection of essays, *Storm Camps*, by 24 leading DRC theologians, ministers, and members.

The traditional English- and Afrikaans-speaking churches, such as the Anglicans, Methodists and the Roman Catholics, have long opposed apartheid. But while they have built up a large following and helped to create a politically articulate black church elite, they have had no perceptible influence on Government policy.

By contrast, the influence of the Dutch Reformed Calvinism of the DRC, brought to the Cape by the first Dutch settlers, remains deep and pervasive, continuing a tradition of church-State partnership dating back to the days of the early Boer republics.

As the Boers spread out from the Cape, armed with Bible and gun, they developed a strong sense of affinity with the Jews of the Old Testament, guided by God in their search for the promised Land. In a sense, the Boers were persecuted and persecuted by the British imperialists.

In one of the controversial essays, Dr Frans Geldenhuys, a former director of ecclesiastical affairs and information of the General Synod of the DRC,

says that the Afrikaner churches, with their policy of racial separation, are isolated from mainstream Christianity and "becoming totally irrelevant in the fast-changing situation in South Africa."

The other churches in South Africa, who belong to the multi-racial South African Council of Churches (SACC), are supported by the entire Christian world in condemning apartheid as evil and sinful. Dr Geldenhuys writes: "The Afrikaner churches stand alone in maintaining that 'there is biblical justification for the system of separate development'."

In another essay, Dr Jacques Kriel, Rector of the University of Bophuthatswana, criticises scathingly the DRC's close links with the Afrikaner Broederbond, the elite secret society to which only white, Calvinist Afrikaner males can belong. More than 60 per cent of DRC ministers are members of the brotherhood, he claims.

So long as these links persist, Dr Kriel says, the DRC will never be able to help to bring about constitutional change in South Africa because it "will never be clear whether the church is acting in obedience to Christ or the Broederbond."

In a summing-up, the editors of the collection of essays write that the commitment of most DRC clergy to Afrikanerism and government policy has rendered them incapable of applying the teachings of the Gospel to the social and political situation in South Africa.

They urge the DRC to end its support for apartheid and to join hands with other South African churches in working for "a society of true justice, peace and well-being for all."

In no society, they say, should skin colour be made the judge of human worth.

The criticism of the DRC and its links with the Broederbond has been given prominent, and generally sympathetic, treatment in the Cape-based stable of Afrikaner newspapers considered loyal to Mr Pieter Botha, the Prime Minister. Although a Broederbond member, like all previous National Party prime ministers, Mr Botha is regarded as a *verligte* (liberal) politician.

His cautious policy of apartheid reform is currently under attack from the National Party's right-wing, led by the powerful Dr Andries Treurnicht, leader of the party's Transvaal branch.

Dr Treurnicht is a former DRC pastor, and at the recent congress of the Transvaal party he quoted Calvin on the "tyranny" of forcing people of different races together.

When apartheid became formal government policy with the coming to power of the National Party in 1948, the DRC furnished scriptural justification for separation of the races, cloaking in modern terms the notion that the sons of Ham were cursed by being black and degenerate and fit only to be hewers of wood and drawers of water.

Today the DRC, together with two smaller offshoots, commands the allegiance of more than 50 per cent of Afrikaners (about 60 per cent of the white population). About 28 per cent of (mixed-race) Coloured people and six per cent of Black Africans also belong to the DRC, but worship in separate churches.

'Terrorist suppliers spied on Libya' claim

By David Cross

British and United States intelligence agencies may have turned a blind eye to some of the "terrorist" activities of a group of former American spies who have been supplying the Libyans with war materials and military training.

In return the agents, who once worked for the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), could have been providing intelligence about the workings of Colonel Gaddafi's regime in Tripoli.

This remarkable possibility was first raised on the BBC television programme *Panorama* last night when it investigated the illegal business dealings of Mr Edwin Wilson and Mr Frank Terpil both former CIA agents.

The claim is based on the evidence of Mr Kevin Mulcahy, a former CIA computer specialist, who was once a business associate of the two former agents but who has severed all links with them.

Mr Mulcahy told *Panorama* that he "regretted" though "he was not selling military equipment to the Libyan Government until he found a document which made it clear that Mr Wilson and Mr Terpil were

providing the Libyans with terrorist equipment and training."

He then contacted a senior CIA official to find out whether the details were being organized by the agency. He had been led to believe, the CIA official was very vague but did not categorically deny that the agency was involved, Mr Mulcahy told *Panorama*.

According to *Panorama*, its reporters had indeed established close links between top American intelligence men and Mr Wilson and Mr Terpil. It claimed: "Wilson and Terpil gave them information in return for freedom to continue business as usual."

Moreover, Mr Mulcahy insisted that Mr Wilson and Mr Terpil were trying to establish the same relationship in Britain. Mr Mulcahy said he did not know whether the British intelligence authorities were providing his former associates with information. But it was clear, he said, that they were never involved with as far as our negotiations and deals in London (and other parts of the United Kingdom) were concerned.

ZIA SEES EYE-TO-EYE WITH EVREN

Islamabad, Nov 23.—General Kenan Evren, the Turkish head of State, today met President Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan here for talks on the international situation and developments in Europe and South-East Asia, official sources said.

The two leaders expressed an "identity of views" on all issues and "absolute solidarity on political matters," the sources said.

President Zia briefed General Evren on Pakistan's efforts towards reaching a political settlement on Afghanistan, while his Turkish counterpart gave him views on East-West relations and developments in Europe and elsewhere.

At banquet speeches yesterday, the two heads of state had expressed concern about increasing tension in the world and the threat of war. Both President Zia and General Evren backed the Saudi Arabian peace plan for the Middle East and demanded an end to the "bitterness" between Iran and Iraq.—APF.

Adana, Turkey: Martial law authorities here said they had arrested 33 suspected members of a Kurdish separatist gang, along with weapons, explosives and letters.—AP.

Navy will close Gibraltar dockyard

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

The Government has decided to close the Royal Navy's dockyard at Gibraltar, starting in 1983. A total of 950 jobs will be lost, 300 of them held by local people.

The RAF airfield there is also to start operating for fewer hours each day, saving more than £1m a year from the defence budget.

The decision, which will be bitterly opposed in Gibraltar, follows the Government's recent defence review, in which it was resolved to run down the number of surface warships in the fleet.

The naval base in Gibraltar will remain, but the ending of the historic dockyard will mean no more repair and refit-work for Gibraltar. Preparatory work before the final closure process gets under way will begin next year.

Meanwhile consultations are about to start with the Gibraltar Government with a view to finding alternative uses for the facilities, including the commercialisation of the yard.

The changed opening hours for the airfield, which is used also by civilian traffic, will bring these "more into line with those required for military purposes."

There has long been speculation about the future of the Gibraltar dockyard, whose usefulness has diminished with the withdrawal of a permanent Royal Navy presence from the Mediterranean.

There could be some criticism of the decision, but it would no doubt prefer to see British facilities remain as they were in case they might be needed in an emergency. But Gibraltar, though strategically important, is not as important as it once was.

The main impact of the Government's decision will be felt by the local economy. Talks with local trade unions will also be held with a view to saving jobs, if possible.

The decision, which resulted in a White Paper in June, also decided that the dockyard at Chatham should close and the one at Portsmouth should be severely run down because of falling requirements.

Sir Joshua Hassan, Gibraltar's Chief Minister, last night described the RAF airfield as the "Rock's lifeline" and said he was "very worried" about plans to run operating hours down to 50 per cent.

"This is something we will have to resist most strongly," he said. "I don't think this is going to be workable. The airport facilities must be available for civilian flights."

He said that a team of officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Overseas Development was flying from Britain to Gibraltar today for consultations.

He was not so worried about the planned closure of the dockyard. "We've been prepared for it and done a lot of homework," he said. "With help from the British Government we hope to save the bulk of the dockyard workforce."

Gibraltar: Closing the dockyard would mean eventual loss of employment for some 3,000 people, of which half are Gibraltarians (Jonathan Searle writes).

The closing down of this, the largest employer, represents some 15 per cent of the workforce and will reverberate throughout a largely supportive economy.

A recent economic survey also predicted that the then feasible alternative to the Gibraltar 19,000 population, but this was very dependent on an open frontier with Spain. There is already unemployment in the building and construction sectors on development aid from Britain.

Tug-of-war over EEC expenditure

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Nov 23

The annual tug-of-war with the European budget resumed here today in a special meeting between finance ministers and representatives of the European Parliament. It was an attempt to bridge the apparently unbridgeable gap between the Council and Parliament about how much should be spent and on what.

The special meeting was something of an innovation of the British presidency of the Community. It was held in an attempt to head off the perennial rows between the Council, which wants to restrict spending, and the Parliament, which wants to spend more.

But even so, the meeting has succeeded in averting a clash. Britain and Germany, the two main contributors to the budget, were set to block some spending on agriculture. Britain, Ireland, Italy and Greece, the poorest countries in the Community, were pressing for more to be spent on the regional and social fund.

In July the European Commission proposed a budget of £11,700m. The Council topped £364m off this amount but last month Parliament voted to restore £240m.

Under Community rules a decision must be reached by midnight or else, by default, the Parliament's proposal goes forward automatically. Faced with such deadlines in the past, Councils have stopped the clocks in the council building to allow more time to reach a decision.

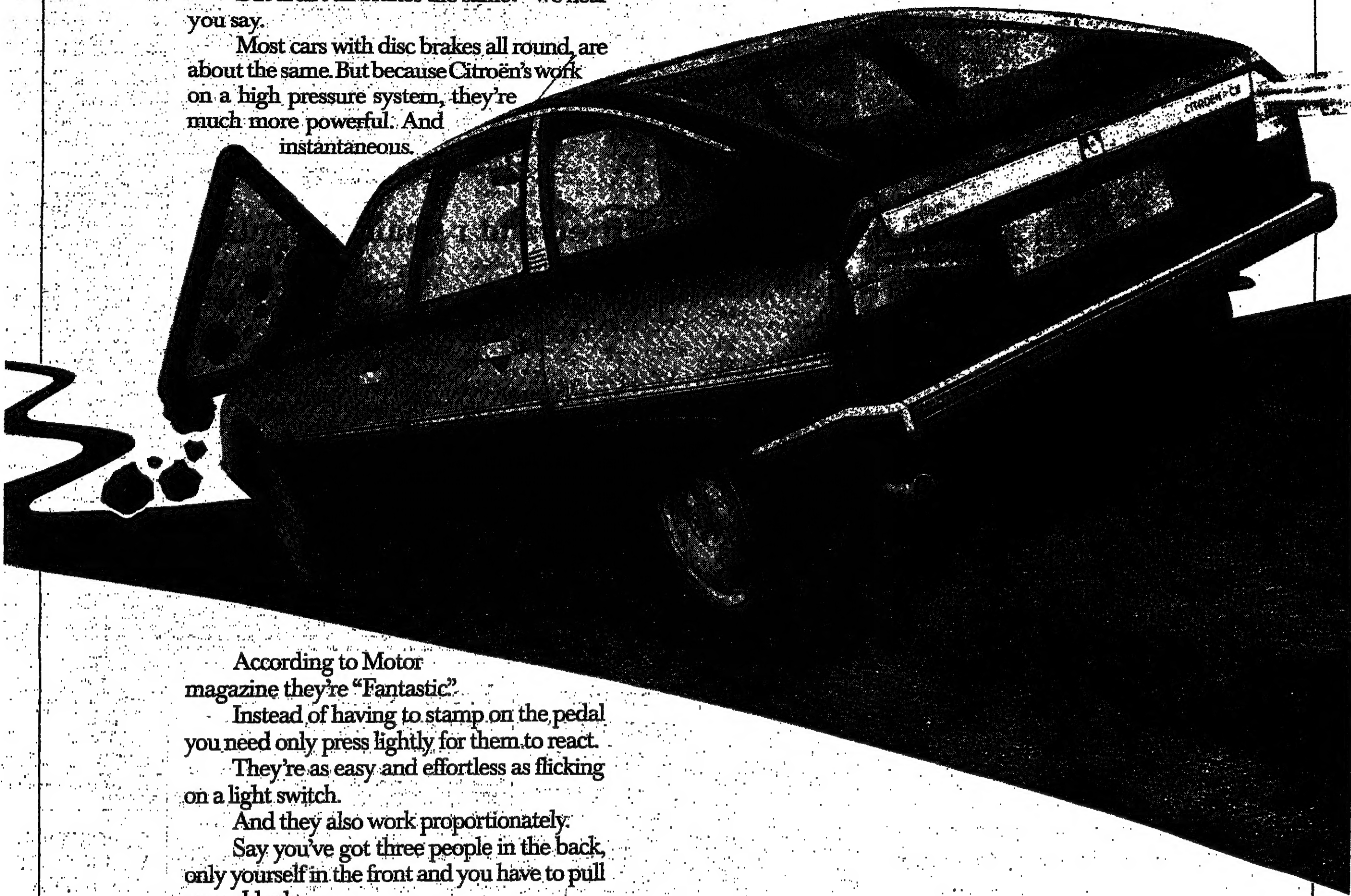
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Solidarity problems as key regional members resign

By Roger Boyes

The talks between the Polish Government and Solidarity have opened up serious problems in the ranks of the independent union. In Gdansk, Mr. Andrzej Gwiazda and 14 other members of the regional executive of Solidarity have resigned because they consider that Mr. Lech Walesa, the union leader, has been too conciliatory in the talks.

Meanwhile in Warsaw, dissident intellectuals frustrated by Solidarity's slow progress in achieving major political reform, have established a new social-democratic oriented group that challenges the monopoly of the Communist Party, seeks greater national autonomy within the Warsaw Pact and aims to fill an important political vacuum.

It is expected that Mr. Walesa will try to persuade the Gdansk executive to withdraw their resignations and will renew his promises to consult more closely.

But, Solidarity sources reported yesterday that the rift between Mr. Walesa and Mr. Gwiazda, one of Mr. Walesa's closest aides, appeared to be very wide.

In Warsaw, police yesterday briefly held Mr. Jacek Kuron, a leading dissident, for an hour of questioning after a raid on his home on Sunday. Mr. Kuron is now one of the moving forces behind the new political grouping, the "Club of the Self-governing Republic".

Officials justified their raid by saying that the Club's founding document was "anti-constitutional and anti-communist".

The details of the document are still somewhat blurred, but it is clear that it is designed to set up a new ideological programme that carries the political impetus of the Solidarity movement a significant step further, creating medium-term goals out of spontaneous idealism.

"The belief that a social protest movement would soon lead to the emergence of a democratic and independent state has turned out to be an illusion," the document is reported as saying.

But the document seems to stop short of calling for a complete withdrawal of from the Warsaw Pact — an understandable sensitive point. Rather, it argues that a logical extension of a multi-party democracy — the Club's principal aim — was a renegotiation of Poland's relations with Moscow.

"Poles, bereft of civil rights, had no influence on the model of Polish-Soviet relations that emerged in the Stalinist era and has remained intact until today. In future negotiations with the USSR, in which authentic representatives of Poland take part, a new arrangement should be worked out in which necessary self-limitation does not violate national sovereignty."

The new grouping has sprung up for two principal reasons. First, there was tangible disappointment, especially among dissident intellectuals, that the reformist zeal of the Solidarity unionists had not translated

into fully fledged political change of the communist system.

Mr. Kuron, a dissident of some 17 years standing, felt this most acutely — he played an important part in establishing Solidarity 15 months ago and was one of the key figures in the now disbanded Committee for Workers' Self Defence (KOR).

This disappointment has turned into alarm in intellectual circles, with the emergence of the chauvinist Confederation for Independent Poland (KPN) which is preaching a programme of total independence and anti-Russian activities. KPN, in the view of the new Club, poses a considerable threat to hopes of political reform.

Despite Mr. Gwiazda's criticisms of the union chief, there seems to have been no progress in talks between the Polish Government and Solidarity. One of the central questions remains that of Solidarity's role in a proposed "Front of National Understanding".

The lack of progress on the talks seems set to unleash a new round of labour unrest by workers, some of whom have already written off union-governmental dialogue as a pointless exercise.

Student strikes have spread to 25 new colleges — the total of institutes on strike is now 56 — farmers have begun new sit-ins, taxi drivers are also threatening a token work stoppage, on Wednesday.

S Africa to legalize multiracial sport

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg, Nov 23

Mr. Gerrit Viljoen, the Minister of National Education, has said that the last remaining legal barriers to multiracial sport in South Africa will be removed by the Government at the next session of parliament starting at the end of January.

But at the same time he has made clear that sport will continue to be segregated in principle at school level. If schools with pupils of different colour wished to compete against each other, they would have to seek special permission from the Department of Education.

Enlarging on the Government's latest position in an interview with *The Times*, Mr. Viljoen said the aim was not to compel integration but to "de-politicize" sport and enable sports clubs and other bodies to "exercise the local option".

The two laws which will be amended at the next session, Mr. Viljoen said, are the Urban Areas Act and the Group Areas Act. The first, among other things, requires a non-African to have a permit to be in a black township, while the second prohibits "occupation" by people of one race or group of an area reserved for those of another.

These will be changed so as no longer to apply to people taking part in or attending sporting activities. The Liquor Act, which limits premises licensed to sell alcohol to serving only one race group, was changed at the last session to exempt sports clubs from its provisions.

There would still be times, Mr. Viljoen admitted, when "a conflict of competing autonomous arises between, say, a sports club which wishes to have a multiracial meeting, and a local authority owning the facilities which is not willing to make them available".

Such a refusal on the part of the authority might not be unreasonable, Mr. Viljoen argued. "For example, let us say a municipal authority rents a bowling green to a club in a white residential area, and the club decides to go multiracial. It would thereby disturb the whole racial composition of that residential area, and that would clash with the Government's policy of having segregated residential areas."

"In such a case I would not consider it unreasonable if the municipal authority refused to rent its facilities to a multiracial club inside a white residential area," he said. But there would be nothing to prevent a club with its own premises and facilities from going multiracial, even in a white area.

This nicely-judged distinction, coming from a minister considered a *verligte* (liberal) in the Afrikaner political spectrum, illustrates the clear limits that will still be set — legal barriers or no — to the deracialization of sport.

Both Pretoria and Johannesburg municipal authorities, in fact, often refuse the use of their facilities to black sportsmen.

Multiracial sport in schools was "very sensitive", Mr. Viljoen admitted, in clear reference to the entrenched opposition to it from the right-wing of the ruling National Party. He blamed the situation in part on private schools which had enrolled more black pupils than they were entitled to.

Ukraine repression attacked in report

By Denis Taylor

The degree of repression in the Ukraine conflicts with the "official" line that the nationalities problem has been successfully resolved in the Soviet Union, according to a new report published by the Minority Rights Group.

This "estimates" that Ukrainians form at least 40 per cent of the political prisoners in Soviet labour camps and jails.

The 45 million Ukrainians, inhabiting a Soviet republic bigger than France and with substantial frontiers with Poland and Romania, are described as "probably the largest nation in the world today to have been denied real and lasting independent statehood".

Because of "the regime's unwillingness to allow the same sort of expressions of Ukrainian patriotism as it permits, and to a considerable extent promotes, in the case of the Russians, there exists a situation in which even a moderate interest in the preservation and development of Ukrainian national identity is regarded as non-conformist or even disloyal behaviour," the report says.

Ukrainians, best characterized as national democrats, have sought permission to leave the USSR; but the Soviet authorities have ignored their requests, preferring to repress former Ukrainian political prisoners rather than permit them to emigrate.

While concluding that nationalism remains strong, at least in the Western Ukraine, the report finds that dissent has still succeeded in extending its roots from the intelligentsia to the working class.

"The latter, with the exception of the workers' rights campaigners from the Donbas, Vladimir Kiebanov and Alexei Nikitin, both of whom are currently forcibly detained in psychiatric hospitals, has remained largely politically inert."

The Ukrainians and Georgians by Bohdan Nayloy and C. J. Peters (Minority Rights Group, 36, Craven Street, London, WC2 2NSG, £1.20 plus 30p postage).

Trudeau sets deadline on Indian rights issue

From John Best, Ottawa, Nov 23

As parliamentary debates on Canada's constitutional reform part resumed this afternoon, behind-the-scenes efforts continued to overcome two centres of vociferous opposition to the plan.

Mr. Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister, has given the 10 provincial premiers until tomorrow night to tell him their views on how to incorporate protection of aboriginal rights in a new constitution.

Native groups across Canada have been vehemently protesting at the exclusion of aboriginal rights from a charter of rights and freedoms approved by Mr. Trudeau and nine provincial premiers — all except Mr. Rene Levesque of Quebec — at a federal-provincial conference on November 5.

The charter is part of a constitutional reform package, now before parliament, the effect of which would be to bring home to Canada the 1867 British North America Act and end Britain's residual control over it.

Women's rights were also left without full protection in the accord struck on November 5, and feminist groups are protesting loudly.

Civil servants clock-in

From David Watts, Kuala Lumpur, Nov 23

Before 8 am every working day a man with glossy black hair, glasses framing an open, direct expression and wearing a neatly pressed safari suit pushes a yellow card into a time clock on the ground floor of his office building. The Prime Minister of Malaysia has arrived for work.

Throughout the Malaysian capital civil servants are doing the same. They are not to talk business until they are inside their offices: it might give way to a highly-prized Malay pastime, conversation.

By 8 am most of them are in their offices and ready to begin another day of work for Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's new Government.

There is little sympathy for back-sliders, clock in late three times and your job is in jeopardy.

Dr Mahathir means what he says when he wants a government of good management by example. So far about 12 government agencies and four ministries have introduced clocking in. The experiment has been so successful that from the beginning of next year all

government departments will introduce the system, and some state governments have followed suit.

"It's working like magic as far as efficiency is concerned," a government planner said.

Some civil servants are not quite so keen about Dr Mahathir's *bersek, cekap, efisien* (clean, efficient, smooth) or BCL government. New governments have been known before to make similar idealistic declarations of intent on taking office, but most of Malaysia's leaders have placed a priority on avoiding domestic controversy. Dr Mahathir is certainly not known for that.

He is determined the country will have a strong sense of direction, will work hard and be disciplined, the very qualities which worked so successfully in the European colonization of South-East Asia and which he is convinced will reward Malaysia.

There are incentive schemes and prizes for civil servants indicative of the Government's accentuation of the positive which is mirrored by a drive against corruption at all levels.

While Dr Mahathir says corruption is not institutionalized in Malaysia the problem becomes infinitely more complex outside the federal government.

Dr Mahathir may turn out to be a difficult foreign point of view, but he will almost certainly be good for Malaysia.



Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, prepares to take off his raincoat after being asked jokingly by President Brezhnev why he needed it in the mild weather that has marked the Russian leader's visit to Bonn.

'Naval role for neutron warheads'

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

Neutron warheads would offer military advantages during a war at sea as well as on land, according to Jane's Weapon Systems 1981-2 which is published today.

President Reagan has authorized production of components to make the controversial warhead, because it is said to be more effective than other nuclear weapons in stopping enemy tanks in a crisis.

Jane's editor, Mr. Ronald Pretty, argues however that the warheads, which release a neutron beam, would destroy a ship's communication systems even if its hull remained intact.

Moreover, the "electromagnetic pulse effect" of a nuclear explosion would destroy a ship's communication systems even if its hull remained intact.

Mr. Pretty also foresees an application for such weapons in anti-missile and anti-satellite systems. Effective "kill mechanisms" for use against electronic apparatus in space are already a subject of considerable importance to the superpowers.

Mr. Pretty says in the foreword that last year's disclosure that the United States was developing a Stealth aircraft which would be virtually "invisible" to radar might have been expected to mark the impending end for aircraft detection and tracking radars.

The Americans were said to have achieved "very promising results" by designing the shape of the new Stealth bomber design and by using radar absorbent materials on the fuselage. Such techniques seem more promising, however, in respect of small robot aircraft than the large bomber now envisaged.

Mr. Pretty says that radar designers have several possibilities to help counter aircraft using Stealth technology. These include the adoption of a wide frequency coverage.

He also says that an effective air defence system to combat Stealth might be developed from the kind of air surveillance system now being designed for Britain's Civil Aviation Authority.

Mr. Pretty points out that the Soviet Union has beaten the United States in putting a nuclear launch missile system to sea, in the Kirov cruiser.

Mitterrand remains popular

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, Nov 23

The "state of grace" enjoyed by the Socialist Government, or the "state of shock" of French public opinion as the opposition prefers to call it, is continuing six months after the Socialists came to power.

The two latest opinion polls, one in the news magazine *Le Point*, the other in the opposition daily, *Le Quotidien de Paris*, confirm that President Mitterrand's popularity is still considerable.

The *Quotidien* and *Giscard* have slipped a little in the past couple of months. But, rather paradoxically more French men and women are worried about the future, and pessimistic about inflation and employment prospects.

The *Giscard* and *Giscard* opposition are not reaping the fruits of this erosion of public confidence, however. Less than one Frenchman in two has a good opinion of the leaders of the outgoing majority.

Mr. Tesson, the Editor-in-Chief of the *Le Quotidien de Paris*, remarks in a cruelly lucid leading article that since they became the opposition they have not succeeded in making themselves credible. Why? because "the men who were defeated on May 10 were inhibited men who had remained in power too long and were as ill-prepared to recover it as they were clumsy in preserving it."

The old majority is acting as an obstacle to the birth of the new opposition. M. Tesson goes on: "Can anyone believe that the men who backed Mitterrand because they took exception to Giscard would today, on the pretext that Mitterrand is beginning to disappoint them, be ready to vote for Giscard if he were the alternative?"

It is not in the name of Giscard or Chirac that one must explain to the country the errors of Mitterrand, but in the name of the rejection of Socialism and of the future."

According to the findings of *Le Point*, the leaders of the left-wing majority are on the whole more popular than those of the opposition. M. Mitterrand's standing in the popularity stakes remains stable at 45 per cent. That of M. Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, has slipped by two points since last summer.

M. Michel Rocard, the unsuccessful younger challenger of M. Mitterrand in the Socialist nomination, is still by far the most popular figure in politics, and M. Jacques Delors, the Finance Minister, another standard bearer of the "New Order" Socialists, has substantially improved his image.

The President is not concerned by the slight erosion of his popularity. But he has decided to address the country on television early in December — for the first time since he took office in May — after his state visit to Algeria because he thinks the policy of the left over the unpopular increases in social insurance contributions is not being properly explained.

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New plea granted in Broglie trial

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Nov 23

There was excitement and expectancy in court this afternoon when proceedings were resumed in the case of the murder of Prince Jean de Broglie. The following explosive statement of M. André Giresse, the presiding judge, on Friday, describing the case as a "French Watergate", and accusing M. Michel Poniatowski, then Minister of the Interior, and the most senior official of the police hierarchy, of making a mockery of justice.

Today, neither the public prosecutor, nor counsel for the defence, nor counsel for the family of the victim, raised objections of principle or law to what M. Giresse had said or suggested.

There was, however, a formal plea by Maître Paul Lombard, counsel for M. Pierre de Varga. The husband of the late Prince, and the alleged instigator of the crime which occurred in December 1976, that because the presiding judge's statement "marked an important turning point in the trial, and indeed in the opinion of some commentators, an important moment in judicial history". It should be considered by the official minutes of the proceedings.

The opinion had been formally expressed by the bench that this was no ordinary criminal case, in which a prominent figure of the Fifth Republic has as the indictment maintains — been murdered for a paltry debt of 40,000 francs, and therefore the real guilty men were not those in the dock.

The plea was granted and the court settled to the routine of hearing the evidence of medical experts.

The question debated by counsel and reporters on the fringes of the court today was whether M. Poniatowski would turn up on Thursday and testify, even if he had not received the reply he insisted on to the questions in his open letter to President Mitterrand, yesterday, alleging that M. Giresse was in breach of the impartiality, serenity, and discretion required of a judge by the code of criminal procedure.

Le Quotidien de Paris notes that "it would have been easy for M. Poniatowski, rather than accuse the judge of failing in his duty of discretion, to proclaim that it would be child's play for him to clear himself of all allegations."

French Senate rejects nationalization Bill

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, Nov 23

As expected, the French Senate today threw out the Government's nationalization Bill. It voted by a majority of 184 to 109 what is called technically the previous question, the adoption of which means that there is no case for debating a Bill.

This demonstration of the hostility of the upper House to the Government's plans has the effect of delaying them, not of thwarting them.

The text of the Bill, as voted by the National Assembly last month, is submitted to a joint committee of seven members of both Houses, which has to agree it after which it is sent back for approval to both Houses. If agreement cannot be reached, the National Assembly votes again on the original text which, if approved by the Assembly, then becomes law.

The conservative majority in the Senate followed the report of its special committee on nationalization of the Bill on economic, social and constitutional grounds. M. Jean-Pierre Fourcade, a former Giscardian Minister of Finance, had argued last week that the Bill lacked cohesion and pragmatism. "It is wrong to equate state control and job creation," he said.

Nationalization means the loss of qualified personnel, of commercial partners, foreign markets, banking networks and subsidiaries. In such a case, including that of the Renault car company, it would be tantamount to the Government's decentralization policy by concentrating powers of decision.

Fourteen people were hurt yesterday in the first ugly brawl in the history of the Campaign when rival political supporters clashed in the village of Zebbug, in central Malta. Fifteen arrests were made.

The incident began when supporters of the opposition Nationalist Party barricaded themselves inside a club as their opponents from the ruling Labour Party demonstrated in the streets.

The demonstrators overcame police barriers and vehicles parked against the door and made three attempts by breaking in, with the police apparently unable to prevent them. Club members appeared on roof and, using explosives, toppled the stone balustrade on to the demonstrators and the police.

Israeli wins Medicis

Paris, Nov 23.—The 1981 Medicis Literary Prize for a foreign writer was today awarded to David Shahar, the Israeli author, for his book *Le Jour de la Contesse*.

The work is the last in a trilogy that depicts the daily lives and dreams of the Jews, Muslims and Christians who live in Jerusalem. Mr. Shahar, who is 55, was born in Jerusalem where his family has lived for five generations. He teaches literature at the University of Jerusalem. The *Medicis* Prize for Fiction, chosen by a jury of women, was awarded to Catherine Hemy-Vielle for her first novel, *La Nuit du Grand Vifir*. The book is set in Baghdad in the ninth century.

Francis-Olivier Rousseau won the *Medicis* prize for his *L'Enfant d'Edouard* (*The Childhood of Edouard*).

Four years jail for anti-tax campaigner

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen, Nov 23

The Danish High Court today sentenced Mr. Mogens Glistrup, a tax lawyer and leader of the controversial anti-tax Progress Party, to four years imprisonment, debarring him from his legal practice and fining him 4m kroner (£300,000) for gross tax fraud.

The sentence, against which Mr. Glistrup is to appeal to the Supreme Court, is much more severe than the 5.5m kroner in fines and costs originally imposed by a Copenhagen magistrate's court in 1978. When repayment of back taxes and costs are taken into consideration, today's ruling will cost Mr. Glistrup a total of almost 10m kroner on top of the prison sentence.

In a radio interview Mr. Glistrup described the sentence as political persecution and said it would in no way affect his leadership of the Progress Party during the current election campaign for which polling is on December 3.

Today's High Court ruling is the latest development in a gruelling marathon series of court cases initiated by the state against Mr. Glistrup for tax offences in 1974. With more than 450 sessions, both the local and high courts the Glistrup case is the longest and costliest proceedings in Danish legal history.

Mr. Glistrup, aged 55, is a financier from the Baltic island of Bornholm, who describes himself as "the most famous Dane in the world since Hans Christian Andersen". He first came to the attention of the public in 1971, when he appeared in television programme and strongly criticized the Danish tax system, pointing out glaring loopholes and illogicalities in the country's complex tax laws.

Claiming that he paid no tax, he won a substantial income of millions of kroner, through clever juggling with the tax regulations. Mr. Glistrup became, something of a national hero in this overtaxed welfare state.

An author of treatises on taxation, a former lecturer at the University of Copenhagen, Mr. Glistrup likened tax evaders to Denmark's Second World War resistance fighters. In 1972 he founded an anti-tax, anti-welfare state, anti-bureaucracy party, the Progress Party.

The party embodied Mr. Glistrup's beliefs that all income tax should be abolished, along with bureaucracy, 50 civil servants being sufficient, in his opinion, to run Denmark.

On defence, Mr. Glistrup advocated the dismantling of the military, and its replacement by an automatic telephone answering service announcing: "We surrender" in Russian.

OPPOSITION WALK-OUTS IN INDIA

From Kuldip Nayyar, Delhi, Nov 23

The opposition in both Indian Houses of Parliament walked out on the opening day today to register their protest against the caste killing of 24 Harijans in Uttar Pradesh last week and the Government's unwillingness to take any action with the International Monetary Fund on a \$50,000 rupees (about £3,000m) loan which opposition parties have termed a "sellout" of the country.

Pandemonium broke out on both houses and for minutes nothing was audible. Members of the ruling Congress Party and the opposition were shouting at each other, with the Speaker a helpless spectator.

Lok Sabha (Lower House) members blocked question time by raising the issue of the "Harijan massacre". Lok Dal party members surrounded the speaker and threatened to stage a sit-in unless an adjournment motion was admitted.

The Speaker would not allow the "discussion" because, he said, it was against the rules "made during the colonial days".

Mr. Zail Singh, the Home Minister, said that he would write telling state governments to arm Harijans for self-defence. He said the Government was investigating an allegation that the police had refused to give licences to Harijans who had given evidence against Thakurs (upper caste Hindus), in Uttar Pradesh.

In the Rajya Sabha (Upper House), the Opposition tried to insist that the Government disclose all relevant documents connected with the agreement with the IMF. When Mr. Ramaswami Venkataraman, the Finance Minister, said he could not do so, most Opposition members walked out.

At Delhi: Outside Parliament, 200,000 workers held an anti-Government rally and the Central Trade Unions Organisation and the National Federation of Workers called for a nation-wide strike on January 19 mainly against the Government's new anti-strike powers (Reuters reports).

Fashion by Suzy Menkes

Close encounters of the Oriental kind

Gilded straw hats toss and tumble among the russet maple leaves. A rippling stream snakes its blue waters across a field of flowers. The large horizons and open vistas in the kimono at the Royal Academy, are an astonishing example of uninhibited design within the rigid discipline of one single dress.

The kimono is to our eyes a flat square, hardly changed, except in sleeve lengths, for 250 years. Western clothing, by contrast, is dependent on shape and line: body-hugging jeans, swirling smock-dresses, square-shouldered jackets, long full skirts. Changing the silhouette is the very stuff of fashion to us.

The robes on display in the Japan Exhibition have different names, although they are hard to distinguish (except for the fantastic creations for the No Theatre). The distinctions come entirely in the decoration, mostly prints, patterns and embroidery drawn from nature — trembling cherry blossom, predatory hawk, or a plum tree pinned against a bamboo trellis. Sometimes the motifs are abstracted, like the swags of cotton spread out on a basket to bleach. Highly decorated Japanese letters with elliptical meanings ("cherry blossom the source of anguish") are clearly the early forerunners of the slogan T-shirt.

The inspiration and imagination in Japanese dress is very hard to re-create in modern idiom. The lure of the East has been a recurring feature of Western fashion since the chinoiserie early this century. But current fashion brushes with the Orient tend to come in the grand style, like the extraordinary and striking Samurai shapes shown by designers in Italy last season.

The most insistent of these is Krizia's dramatic lion motif, tossing a luxur thread mane across the bosom of a hand-knit sweater or stretching a gilded paw across the hipline of Samurai breeches.

The exhibition has spawned a myriad of objects, other than fashion, for sale

in London. At the Academy itself are everything from paper fans to lustrous vases to well-dressed Japanese dolls, all selected by Neal Street's Christina Smith, who opened an enlarged version of the Academy selection (including books and Edo and Meiji prints) last week.

Liberty's oriental department (now in the basement) has a wide selection of Japonerie including some splendid nineteenth century vases, while shops like Mitsukoshi and Mitsuikoshi all sell Japanese goodies and art galleries all over London are showing exhibitions on to the Academy's kits-tails.

The lack of Japanese fashion in London is ironic, considering the crucial influence of Japan's designers on Western fashion in the past decade.

The land that has given us video recorders, also gave us Kenzo Takada, one of the most directional designers working out of Paris. His contribution has been almost entirely to the shape of clothes and an exuberant sense of pattern and colour. Kansai Yamamoto (one of a cluster of other Japanese designer names in Paris) is truer to the Japanese spirit, with his bold oriental motifs and strongly-shaped sweaters and jackets.

Issey Miyake (also in Paris) probably works most closely to the Japanese tradition. I find Miyake's spare, clinical clothes, his bare sculptural tunics and trousers very difficult to understand. Maureen Doherty of the Elle Shops (who sell Miyake in London) is herself an aficionado of Miyake and says that his most faithful clients are people who understand architectural concepts.

Issey Miyake has the purest approach to line and space that one sees in the spare lines on the Japanese screens. There is certainly more art in him than in the dressing gown kimonos and happy coat bathrobes that currently masquerade as Japanese fashion.

The Great Japan Exhibition, Art of the Edo 1600-1868, at the Royal Academy until February.



In the Samurai tradition: pleated gold lamé jacket, frosted warrior's collar and black silk breeches appliqued with tiger-printed lamé. All by Mariuccia Mandelli for Krizia. £360 from Harvey Nichols. Shiny black earrings by Corocraft. Bronze cuff boots from Crocodile.

A kimono for today

Gensai of Kyoto is the bridge between the Sony generation and the Samurai, they told me as I looked at his twentieth-century interpretation of the kimono.

Japan's leading kimono designer was in London yesterday for the first-ever European showing of his work. From his atelier in Kyoto, where 18 artists paint freehand on pure silk, came sunbursts, swirls of colour, scatterings of flowers and butterflies. Down the catwalk, tiny Japanese and Amazonian Western models showed Gensai's kimonos and catfans, designed especially for the West and already big in America's Sun Belt.

Which of the polite and sombre-suited men hovering round the hotel suite was Gensai? I wondered as I homed in on a curly-headed young man in a chic silk suit. He, it transpired, was Nakano, the make-up artist, who had been showing us his skill with the silk make-up from Kanebo, sponsors of the show. Gensai, the umbilical cord joining the old Japan with the new, was the tall, rumpled figure in blue jeans, dark glasses a leather jacket and Western boots.

"Women in Japan wear both Western dress and kimonos because all women have two selves: the quiet subordinate woman who expresses herself through a kimono, and a Western style to fit into contemporary life," claimed Gensai through his beard (and his translator).

A lady should not wear a kimono unless she knows how to wear it, as it cannot reflect her beauty if she does not understand it. He would never change or update the kimono.

Gensai would, however like to change his own life by spending six months of the year in Switzerland, where he would design furniture and wallpaper (presumably not for the Japanese traditional white walls and rush mats).

Would he ever go out himself in traditional Japanese dress?

"Western fashion only," whispered Gensai in English. His interpreter explained that for men to wear the kimono they have to show dignity, and he did not yet have that dignity.

But then, could the noblest Japanese spirit look dignified in jeans?



Hand-painted pure silk kimono fixed with the traditional rice paste by Gensai of Kyoto, to order from Harrods. Japanese paper fan from the Royal Academy shop. Rain sandals from Liberty.



Own shop

Folk legend has it that Michiko arrived in London in 1974 with two words of English and a large parcel of brown rice from her mother.

From those uncertain beginnings, she has built a fashion business which last year culminated in her ultimate ambition: her own shop in Tokyo emblazoned in neon with the words "Michiko of London".

The 30-year-old designer has certainly managed to cross-fertilize the fashions of East and West. Her brilliantly coloured curved rain jackets have been much copied and her current collection of cheery separates, indiscreetly decorated with Japanese crests, is a far cry from the quiet kimonos of tradition.

Left: Hot pink crested cord blazer with blue suede collar £71, matching short skirt on hip besque £26, Japanese motif on hooded sweater £15.95. All by Michiko at Teamwork, 12 St Christopher's Place, W1, Howle, 138 Long Acre WC2, Jig-saw shops in Hampstead, Bath, Richmond and Putney, W2, Cardiff and Conishe, Edinburgh.

Wild wear

The head of a tiger by Gounod Dadaide (1858) appears on an arresting screen of the Edo period. It has been used as an inspiration for some of the most intricate and extraordinary knitwear ever made, although only knitting experts can really appreciate it.

The Indira sweater, hand-inlaid in pure cashmere, has 97,000 stitches in the patterned area alone, is produced by a knitter after seven years' training and sells for a collector's price of £1,000.

In the same Japanese tradition from Pringle of Scotland, are a man's dragon sweater and a lambswool jacket featuring motifs from Samurai warriors' armour.

Right: Pringle's tiger Indira sweater from Harrods, Selfridges, Hills of Old Bond Street and Simpson Piccadilly. Khaki silk Mao blouses £43.50, charcoal cream and black oriental skirt with applique belt £26, both by Emanuel Zoo from Whistles, Marylebone High Street, Walton Street and The Piazza, Covent Garden. Japanese sandals from Mitsukoshi.



Rare skill

Japanese jewelry so detailed and delicate that you need to appreciate it through a magnifying glass, is on display in London in one of the spin-off displays from the Academy Exhibition.

Paul Longmire has an eye for the rare and the curious, from the tactile lapis animals to the fine jewelry and silver that is part of the tradition of the previous company which stood on his premises at 12 Bury Street, St James's.

Tiny pictures of birds or boats or Japanese scenes, are carved and inlaid in metal work in the exquisitely wrought bracelets and brooches of this small Japanese collection. The Shikudo technique in gold and copper is descended directly from the extraordinary Edo sword hilt and sheath carvings.

The Japanese jewelry prices start at about £400. The ultimate gift from the East to finger in the toe of your Christmas stocking would be Paul Longmire's half peeled orange, carved with intricate skill out of ivory.

Photographs by Nick Briggs

Hair and make-up by Elena for Kanebo, using their Silk Skin Care Collection

Model: Susi Purdi (at Annie Gilman Ltd)

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Women in Politics/Shirley Summerskill

Why not make policy instead of tea?

I recently discovered a group photograph taken more than a quarter of a century ago on the terrace of the House of Commons, showing all the 26 women Members of Parliament at that time, including my mother. For a similar photograph today we could muster only 19 out of a total of 635 Members.

Why are there so few women surgeons, judges, ambassadors and professors, or company directors, newspaper editors and MPs? It is because of the combined effect of tradition and conditioning upon boys and girls, men and women. This influence cannot be eliminated within one or two generations.

When I was in the sixth form at school the careers mistress advised any girl wanting to study medicine to settle for nursing ("because it's easier"), and she laughed when I said I wanted to be a Member of Parliament. I hope that today the advice being given is more enlightened.

Yet ever since I entered politics I have always found strong support and loyalty from women within the Labour Party and among my voters. It is a complete myth that women do not support other women in politics.

Too many women simply do not believe in themselves and in their own competence. Their school performance may exceed that of their



Shirley Summerskill

male conspiracy, women who enter the political arena become aware of some discrimination against them. This is usually at the selection stage for parliamentary candidates, as countless able women who have been rejected could testify.

When I was fighting my first General Election in Halifax I was asked by a journalist (male) whether, being a woman, I thought I was capable of representing an industrial town. The question revealed ignorance, prejudice, stupidity and offensiveness in about equal proportions, but it is an example of a Dr Johnson attitude to a woman's ability which is still prevalent today.

The House of Commons is filled with men who are there because they were in the right place at the right time. They were nominated for seats through personal contacts made in their trade unions, local councils and at work, as well as through traditional political parties.

This is the entire Parliament: which a woman must penetrate if she is to make policy instead of tea. Her first election fight will probably be for a hopeless or a marginal seat and it's unlikely to be near home; mine was at Blackpool, so it is not surprising that most women with young children have neither the time nor the money to take this on. I remember Mrs Thatcher saying in an interview that she



The photograph of the 26 women members of the 1935-45 Parliament recently discovered by Dr Shirley Summerskill, Labour MP for Halifax. It was taken on the terrace of the House of Commons to commemorate Lady Astor's 25th anniversary party on December 1, 1944. Dr Summerskill's mother, Dr Edith Summerskill, is standing second from the right. The other Members are (standing, left to right) Lady Tarrington, Miss Irene Ward, Mrs Wright, the Duchess of Atholl, Mrs Bingle, Mrs Marie Tate, the Countess of Iremagh, Mrs Theodor Cazalet Ken, Mrs Sarah Ward, Mrs Copeland, Viscountess Davidson (now Lady Northchurch, having been created a peeress in her own right), Mrs Leah Manning, Lady Noel-Buxton, Miss Florence Horsburgh, Miss D. Jewson, Viscountess Runciman, Dr Edith Summerskill and Mrs J. L. Adamson; (and seated, from left to right) Miss Picton-Turbervill, Miss Megan Lloyd-George, Mrs Winttingham, Lady Astor, Miss Margaret Bondfield, Miss Eleanor Rathbone and Miss Mary Hamilton.

could never have combined politics with a family if her constituency had not been in London.

The problems do not vanish when a seat is won. Ellen Wilkinson was the first woman MP (but not the last) to say "I wish I had a wife". Member's wives often combine looking after the children with the supportive roles of chauffeur, secretary, cook, housekeeper and personal assistant.

Yes, I have seen a busy woman Minister preoccupied with buying tomatoes at the Commons cafeteria ("be-

cause we've run out at home") and, as everybody knows, Helene Hayman had to feed her baby between division bells.

In the debating chamber a man can be "strident", "shrill", "lecturing" or "sagging" without causing comment, because these particularly barbed adjectives are reserved for describing women politicians. A man can get away more easily with making a fool of himself during a speech because he is submerged among more than 500 similar beings. However, the converse is true; he finds

it harder than the women to draw favourable attention to himself.

Finally, an illustration of how in the House of Commons the more things change the more things stay the same. Recently a woman MP was allocated a small office to share with a male colleague. Soon afterwards he approached her in great distress announcing that he could not possibly agree to such an arrangement because he would need the room to change his shirt in the evenings and his wife would not approve.

I am reminded of Winston Churchill's remark to Lady Astor which was that when she first entered the House he felt as if she had burst into his bathroom and he had only a sponge to protect himself. To which Lady Astor replied: "Sir, you are not handsome enough to have worries of that kind!"

Maybe instead of asking "Why so few?" we should marvel that, during the past 60 years, 109 women have actually succeeded in becoming Members of Parliament.

Could Roy Jenkins be the real Crosby casualty?

The SDP's Gang of Four have made a regular habit of lunching together on Mondays before the fortnightly meetings of the party's steering committee. Yesterday, for the first time, the lunch did not take place. Shirley Williams is out of town with rather more pressing matters to attend to, and the others decided to sit down with two empty places at the table.

By the time the four next come together, their relative positions in the party could well have undergone a subtle but significant transformation. At present, the party is generally agreed that Roy Jenkins dominates the steering committee and David Owen the parliamentary committee made up of the Social Democrats which meets every Thursday.

If Shirley Williams wins the Crosby by-election on Thursday, as the polls suggest she will, and particularly if she wins it with a handsome majority, her standing in these two central organs of the party, and among the membership at large, will be considerably enhanced. Several leading

Social Democrats are already beginning to ask themselves how much difference that would make to the leadership issue and to the future style and direction of the party.

There are three inter-related questions about the leadership: how will it be decided, who will get it and what effect will a single leader have on the nature of the party?

On the method of election, the SDP's draft constitution proposes that the leader should be nominated and provisionally elected by the parliamentary committee and then endorsed by the Council. Social Democracy, the party's 100-strong parliament which will be elected next year. Only if the council fails to endorse the MPs' choice of leader will the issue go to a ballot of all the members.

This proposal has the backing of Roy Jenkins, William Rodgers and a majority of the steering committee. It is, however, opposed by Shirley Williams, David Owen and a group on the steering committee led by Michael Thomas who argue for the leader to be directly elected by the party membership. To a certain extent the

division on this issue reflects a difference between the more constitutionally minded and Parliamentarily minded of the SDP leadership and those of a more radical and populist hue. There is also an element of self-interest involved. Jenkins is generally considered to have the best chance of becoming leader if the electorate is restricted to MPs, while Williams and Owen are seen as having a better chance in a contest with a wider franchise.

A decisive victory for Shirley Williams at Crosby could strengthen the one-man, one-vote lobby. It would also clearly improve her own chances in the leadership stakes. Not least important, it would also put her firmly in the race. Until Roy Jenkins also wins a seat, he cannot be counted as a certain runner.

The party's timetable gives him at least another six months to get back into Parliament. The draft constitution is to be discussed at a special conference in February and put to a ballot of the whole membership in March. There is likely to be a specific ballot on the method of electing the leader. If the result favours the one-man,



one-vote formula, the leadership election is likely to take place by postal ballot in May or June, simultaneously with the election of the party's council and regional councils.

If, however, the party decides in favour of confining the election of leader to MPs, with endorsement by the council, the process will take much longer. It will have to await the election of the council and is unlikely to be completed before October. By then Roy Jenkins should be in Parliament and therefore eligible for election.

'A decisive victory for Shirley Williams would clearly improve her own chances in the leadership stakes... until he also wins a seat he cannot be counted as a certain runner'

they perceive to be Jenkins' intellectual liberalism and Europeanism. Those from traditional working-class, right-wing Labour backgrounds see in him a man with roots similar to their own and free of the Fabian elitism with which some associate Williams and Owen.

Roy Jenkins' election as leader would, in fact, leave unresolved the central question about the SDP's future direction: is it to be more a Mark Two Labour Party representing the working-class, social-democratic traditions of the Gaiskell era or more a new-style radical centre party different from anything seen before in British politics?

He alone, perhaps, can keep these two elements in play and maintain the extraordinary and even contradictory coalition which is the Social Democratic Party. For all his clear-drinking image, Jenkins has in a curious way managed to remain more a man of the people than either of his two main rivals for the new party's leadership.

Ian Bradley

A chance for reform the EEC will bungle

by Joan Pearce

A mere mention of the costs of the CAP. The European Community's Common Agricultural Policy is usually sufficient to stop conversation. But the EEC heads of government, meeting in London in the European Council on Thursday, cannot avoid discussing the CAP. Perhaps they are as perplexed and bored as the layman by the apparent stubbornness and complexity of the problem. The real issues are, however, remarkably simple, as would be a solution, if they were properly understood.

The CAP was set up to serve French interests, but it no longer does so. Reducing agricultural prices would benefit France as well as Britain. France does not perceive this. It obscures it by agitating for special treatment on the community budget, and Germany loses all round. All would benefit, and the budget problem would be much less acute, if EEC agricultural prices could be brought down towards world prices. Instead, the search for a purely budgetary compromise will probably make things worse.

The discussions in London will focus on the commission's report on restructuring the community, but requested as part of the British budget agreement in May 1980. Britain is a large net contributor to the budget because of a large net importer of agricultural products it receives very little from the CAP, which accounts for some two-thirds of budget expenditure. Hence the commission was asked to report on restructuring the budget so that a smaller share would go on the CAP.

This created a rare chance to reform the CAP fundamentally so as to benefit all member states, yet the opportunity will almost certainly be missed. The community's unsatisfactory progress is usually blamed on the narrow pursuit of national interest. But in the present context of the CAP, the member states, particularly France and Britain, are fighting to pursue their national interests.

The establishment of a unified market was to enable France, a large low-cost producer, to become the pre-eminent supplier of agricultural goods in the community. The French did initially gain from the CAP as intended, but for a decade their proportion of the community's agricultural production has been stable. France's share of intra-community agricultural exports has declined and its balance-of-agricultural trade with the community has deteriorated: imports amounted to 43 per cent of exports in 1973 but rose to 66 per cent in 1979.

The reason for this little-known paradox is simple, and it is indeed the basic flaw of the CAP. On German insistence 15 years ago, the common agricultural price levels to be applied throughout the community were set too high. Despite some declines in real terms, prices have been kept too high, so high-cost producers have been able to remain in business and often to increase production. Consequently all member states except Italy have become more self-sufficient rather than more specialized since then: the community stands out in Poland today is the one who adopts a conservative style.

Again, Penderick's recent output has a degree of strength, integration and purpose, that makes it arguably the music of Solidarity: opposition no longer needs to be carried on underground.

Paul Griffiths

Bridesheads unvisited or hard times for Britain's stately homes

The sun shone fitfully on Ragley Hall, a seventeenth-century Palladian mansion near Alcester, in Warwickshire. Its owner, the Marquess of Hertford, shirt-sleeved and clearly hotfoot from some morning duty, parked his Land Rover in the front drive, greeted the handful of sauntering visitors and urged them to essay the newly opened restaurant.

How was business, one asked, as one does with marquesses. "Bloody awful," was the succinct reply.

For stately home owners, as for most of the rest of us, these are dismal times. As they gather in London for today's annual meeting of the Historic Houses Association, they are acutely aware that the bubble has burst; that the prospect of financial salvation from the pockets of eager tourists, first proffered by the Duke of Bedford and Lord Montagu of Beaulieu a generation ago, has proved a snare and a delusion.

This year, for the first time, the number of paying visitors to Britain's historic houses has fallen. Although in some areas, such as the West Midlands, recession has bitten particularly sharply, the pattern is general throughout Britain, and more than one speaker is expected to tell today's meeting that opening his home to the public is no longer financially worth while.

That does not of course mean that the drawbridges are about to be raised against the invading hordes. Big commercial enterprises like Woburn, Beaulieu and Longleat will doubtless continue to function for the foreseeable future, their profits derived largely from extraneous attractions like

museums, fairgrounds and safari parks.

Short of a rampaging ideological left wing government, there is little danger either to those houses whose owners and their predecessors have been prudent enough to retain substantial estates of farms and woodlands, instead of selling them to pay taxes. For their owners, opening to the public is primarily a means of qualifying for tax concessions and for grants from the Historic Buildings Council towards the cost of repairs and maintenance.

What is worrying the association particularly is the plight of the so-called smaller houses, which have neither revenue-producing estates nor enough attractions to draw the paying public in large numbers. "Smaller" still means uncomfortably large when it comes to paying maintenance bills, a burden increased by the requirement that repairs and alterations to listed buildings be carried out to approved plans and using specified materials.

Even those owners who appear to have done quite nicely out of opening their homes to the public have, in many cases, borrowed large sums for the purpose and have found that the income from visitors comes nowhere near to covering the cost of interest and repayments.

A growing number are therefore likely to seek alternative solutions. Institutional use has proved the salvation of some houses, but large companies do not seem as interested now as they were a few years ago in acquiring country mansions for use as training or conference centres.

Conversion to a hotel is another possibility, but usually entails undesirable internal alterations. There are also likely to be difficulties over fire regulations.

Often the best solution, and one that is becoming increasingly popular, is dividing a large house into flats. This can often be done without damaging the interior, and it certainly makes more sense than a family of three or four people continuing to rattle around in a house built for 30 or 40. But there is a risk of subsequent disputes over responsibility for upkeep.

An association working party is expected to recommend that owners of listed buildings should be able to offset the cost of repairs and maintenance against income tax, a privilege at present confined to those able to convince the Inland Revenue that opening to the public is a full-time business, intended to make a profit. The working party is also looking at the possibility of rates exemptions, although that would pose problems for local authorities in cities like Bath and Chester.

Those who resent the idea of granting financial concessions to an already privileged minority might care to suggest some other way of preventing more and more houses falling into ruin. At a time when the Government is reducing staff, cutting back on maintenance and seeking to "hive off" direct responsibility for those historic buildings and monuments already in its care, this is hardly the time to be talking of state ownership.

John Young

The most popular historic houses 1980

	visitors
Beaulieu	585,000
Stonham Palace	354,000
Brooklands	315,000
Leeds Castle	288,000
Harewood House	251,000
Chatsworth	250,000

Source: English Tourist Board Report. *Includes visitors for Longleat and Woburn who confounded.



Ragley Hall, Alcester: business 'bloody awful'

Music to match the new mood of Poland



Penderecki old and new. Above, an excerpt from 'Devils of London', accompanied by drums, squares and bells. Below, the more orthodox style of his Paradise Lost.

By courtesy Schott and Co

Twenty years ago Krzysztof Penderecki was the rising star of the avant garde, composing works with titles like *Anaklasis* and *Polymorphia* into bold new realms of sound. Now he has turned himself into the late Romantic composer Poland never had. His god is Bruckner. His music has gradually recovered all the old properties of melody, secure harmony and continuous development. His present works are in the standard genres of symphony, concerto and oratorio. Opera too, as the audience at the Festival Hall will discover tonight when an excerpt from his *Paradise Lost* receives its British premiere.

Of course, a disenchantment of the 1960s is not unusual, even among composers, but Penderecki is very much alone in trying so deliberately and decisively to recapture the musical flavour of a century ago. As far as he is concerned, though, this stylistic change was a natural one, inevitable once he had started to concern himself with clear-cut musical themes in the early 1970s. He also feels that the expressive quality of his music has remained pretty much the same throughout his career, and indeed all his works do act with a raw force on the emotions.

But equally, as he also recognizes, his musical evolution has been closely connected with political and cultural change in Poland. Born in 1933, he had no opportunity to acquaint himself with Stravinsky's music, let alone Schoenberg's, until he was in his early twenties, so exclusive were the artistic ideologies of succeeding Nazi and Stalinist powers.

Then in 1956 came a brief moment of liberalization, enough to open the doors to music and literature that had been banned for two decades, and in common with many of his countrymen Penderecki quickly took hold of what was new.

At first he was influenced by the most advanced among his Western colleagues, particularly Pierre Boulez and Luigi Nono. But before long he was finding his own voice, which he now feels first emerged clearly in his *Threnody to the Victims of Hiroshima* for a large orchestra of strings, completed in 1961.

Certainly this was the work that made his international reputation, thanks not only

needed a composer who was both avant-garde and popular, a composer who could challenge the Government's blinkered cultural policies and who could also attract an audience so wide that he could not be dismissed as some kind of freak.

Penderecki, whose growing fame abroad made it impossible for him to be ignored at home, thus fulfilled a valuable function in helping to keep the artistic corridors open between Poland and the West.

His cultivation of religious music was also stimulated, he says, by the wish to sound a dissenting voice, since before the advent of Solidarity the Church was the focus for opposition to the government. In 1965, therefore, he signed himself with the Church by writing his *St Luke Passion*, a work which not only dramatized Christ's death but also opened the way for concerts to take place in churches in Poland for the first time since the war.

But at the same time, as the composer himself admits, he is not so very religious. He is a practicing Catholic, but he would not feel comfortable composing a Mass. He prefers subjects which excite his sense of drama as much as his sense of awe.

Moreover, his continuing production of religious works he sees also as a continuing volley of barbs against the Government, and within the last two years he has been able to become more open about this. His *Te Deum* of 1980 was written for and dedicated to the new Polish Pope, and in its use of an old Polish hymn, was as much a patriotic as a religious declaration of faith.

One might also understand the new solidity of Penderecki's musical language as a response to changed conditions in Poland. In the first place, the government's way of dealing with the avant-garde experimenters has been to institutionalize them: the composer who stands out in Poland today is the one who adopts a conservative style.

Again, Penderecki's recent output has a degree of strength, integration and purpose, that makes it arguably the music of Solidarity: opposition no longer needs to be carried on underground.

Paul Griffiths

How the stars may help you to shine

New scientific evidence suggesting that the positions of the planets when we are born do significantly influence our personalities will be presented to the second Astrological Research Conference at London University's Institute of Psychiatry this weekend. Michel and Françoise Gauquelin, the French psychologists known for their work in this subject, have discovered that introverts are more likely to be born under Saturn while extroverts are more often born under Mars and Jupiter.

The Gauquelins' conclusions come in the wake of some recent and equally extraordinary work which suggests that there is a relationship between the profession people choose and the sign they are born under. Thus scientists are more likely to be born under Saturn, sportsmen under Mars and actors under Jupiter.

The latest work has involved studying the personalities of eminent deceased people in France and the United States,

and came after a suggestion from Professor Hans Eysenck that personality rather than profession might be correlated with the movement of the planets. He himself has just completed a monograph on sportsmen and personality which suggests they are more likely to be extrovert than introvert.

The husband-and-wife team examined the biographies of the eminent for attributes relating to personality. This information was interpreted "blind" by Eysenck's wife Sybil, a senior lecturer in psychology at London University, who classified the subjects according to whether they were extroverts or introverts. The Gauquelins then fed the information into a computer together with the relevant birth signs.

Cube warning

I am not a Rubik Cube fan — quite the opposite, in fact — so I welcome *Not Another Cube Book!* by W. C. Bindweerd and David Godwin, due out from Pan on December 4.

For me it does for the cube what John Wells has done for Denis Thatcher. I reproduce here some of Mahood's drawings on

THE TIMES DIARY

Lunch at L'Ecu de France with Robert Hardy. Fresh from his triumph over the dithering Chamberlain in Winston Churchill's Wilderness Years, he tells me he plans to tackle the Mad Mahdi in a BBC documentary about Gordon of Khartoum. Hardy travels to the Sudan soon for what he describes as a race which will involve him trying to persuade government officials to assist his researches, speaking to the grandchildren of the Mahdi and uncovering Gordon memorabilia. The result will be a lengthy documentary which he will write and narrate.

During our meal we were joined by the delightful Samira Osman Abu Affan, a half-Sudanese girl descended by marriage from the Mahdi who wrote to offer her help when she heard of the project. Hardy said: "It is a fascinating story. Gordon was an extraordinary, naïve eccentric who is respected still in the Sudan as a great man. And, just think, it happened less than 100 years ago."

After a three-course history lesson, interspersed by the occasional Churchillian growl which Hardy slips in at the drop of a cigar ("I am reluctant to let go of the shreds of my last part," he says) I am beginning to suspect that Hardy would have been more happily born in an earlier era.

Igor who?

Igor Stravinsky would have been 100 next year, and to celebrate the centenary one record company is issuing a complete set of his works in a 31-LP boxed set. That's a lot of listening, but I now hear that the master's oeuvre would have been larger but for an outbreak of British narrow-mindedness.

The poet Ronald Duncan, whose collected verse appears this week from Heinemann, tells me that he invited the exiled Russian to London in 1938 to conduct his new *Jeu de Cartes* at a memorial concert for a mutual friend. "I will not only conduct, I will compose a new work for the

Les folies

My colleague Bernard Donoghue, policy adviser to James Callaghan when he was Prime Minister, was in Paris last weekend where he was struck by the heavy iron which President Mitterrand's new government has begun to spawn in a series of jokes. Two examples are:

● What is a sardine? — A socialized whale.

● The President is discussing France's future with an economic adviser.

President: What will the rate of inflation be in 1984? Adviser: Zero per cent, Mr President.

President: Good. And what will be the number of unemployed? — Zero, Mr President.

President: Excellent. Now how much will a baguette of bread cost? — Two thousand kopeks, Mr President.

Our more cosmopolitan readers may be familiar with other Mitterrand blagues.



occasion." Stravinsky said. The delighted Duncan hastened to the Royal Philharmonic Society, which has prided itself as a sponsor of new music ever since it commissioned Beethoven to write his Ninth Symphony. "They were not interested," says Duncan. "I still have their abrupt letter of rejection."

Duncan had an equally frosty reception from Bossey & Hawkes, Stravinsky's British publishers. "Stravinsky" said Ralph Hawkes. "He hasn't written anything decent since *Firebird* 30 years ago. With no alternative, Duncan had to decline Stravinsky's offer. He

reciprocated in a small way, however, with a recent epitaph at the grave of the peripatetic composer in Venice:

Here Igor and Es lie beneath their elderdown of stone. Each unusually at rest. Both unarmingly at home.

On the eve of publication of Lord Scarman's eagerly anticipated report on the Britain Riots I hear that the Society of Black Lawyers has invited him to be its principal guest at a Christmas reception in Lincoln's Inn. The society's members include barristers, solicitors, articulated clerks and final

year law students from Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

Inside favourite?

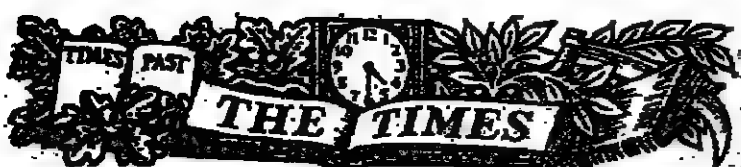
It might be a good idea to have a small flutter on John Thompson in the BBC's *Scakes*. Mr Thompson has been a solid work as the Independent Broadcasting Authority's director of radio for the last seven years and there are now 33 independent stations. And it may be significant that his nomination for the BBC's directorship came not from the IBA, as suggested in a weekend report, but in an invitation from top brass at the BBC. He is 53, about the right age, and has been a newscaster and reporter with Independent Television News, New York correspondent of the *Daily Express* and a well-known editor of *The Observer* magazine.

Late news

Now I know where we journalists got our bad habits of inaccuracy, exaggeration and ignorance — you know the sort of thing. We pick them up from our elders and betters at college. Mr Mike Wagstaff, lecturer in Journalism at Harlow Technical College, has just written to the editor of *The Times* asking for help with his course. A reasonable request, except that Mr Wagstaff's letter to Mr William Rees-Mogg, I think the first piece of help Mr Wagstaff needs is some gentle advice that Sir William Rees-Mogg (knighthood in the June honours) has not been editor of this paper since March 7 this year.

Peter Watson





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MR TEBBIT'S LOST CLAUSE

The first thing to be said about Mr Norman Tebbit's proposals for trade union reform is that they do not go for the jugular vein. He came to his job with the handicap of a reputation for ferocity, with his predecessor, correspondingly, having been dismissed for his lack of it. Opponents of the new legislation will be only too eager to build on this factor in an attempt to represent the bill as an attack, in Mr Len Murray's words, on "the heart of trade union means and methods". A fundamental attack of that kind would be ill-judged not only because of the immediate conflict it would cause but also because in our society it could not be sustained.

But yesterday's proposals would leave a virtually unaltered scope for conflict between employers and employees in disputes over their pay and terms of work. The effect would be to strengthen the safeguards for individuals innocently penalized in such a clash of forces, and to exclude from the protection of the law any action devoted not to safeguarding the interests of the groups involved, but to imposing on someone else a course of action not directly affecting the strikers themselves. The labour movement's understandable and traditional emphasis on communal action often induces it to overlook the distinction between solidarity and busyboding, but there is a distinction, and the plans outlined by Mr Tebbit yesterday show that the law can and should recognize it.

In basic approach the plan is not a reversal of the policies associated with Mr James Prior, but a reasonable development of them. In some

important respects, indeed, it does not go as far as a concept of measured progress might have dictated. If the Bill is to gain the eventual acceptance that it deserves, it is important at this stage that it should not be presented as the kind of fundamental assault on trade unionism that some Conservatives would like. The 1971 Act never recovered from the dogmatic and inflexible manner in which it was driven through Parliament; Mr Tebbit should be at pains to avoid giving his own offspring an equally bad start in life. There is no reason to doubt that the basic aims of the present law would be widely endorsed even among trade unionists.

The plan to improve control over the closed shop is well judged. Compensation for a worker unfairly dismissed through the operation of a closed shop will be increased, and he will be able to seek redress from the union that engineered his dismissal (at present only the employer is able to ask for the union to bear its share: compensation from the union is no innovation in principle). Union-labour-only contracts will be made ineffective, and the rules on dismissal of strikers will be changed, though not in such a way that victimization of strike leaders will become possible. The plans for closed shop balloting do not attempt to impose it by compulsion, but merely define reasonable conditions upon which closed shops may be acknowledged by the law. There is no threat to the peculiar institution as such, so long as it operates humanely and with the support of its members. Similarly the proposals on

corporate union immunities from civil lawsuits are no threat to those immunities in ordinary disputes. It is only in secondary action already banned, and in action not principally related to a trade dispute between the parties themselves that this most sacred of all sacred cows will be touched. The ceilings on damages and the proviso that the union can escape liability by repudiating the actions of its members rule out any possibility that the change could weaken central union authority (such as it is) or be used to exhaust a union's funds, as Mr Murray fears. It will be necessary to ensure that the repudiation is no mere matter of form but involves a genuine effort to impose internal discipline, whether successfully or not.

The main omission from the Green Paper is the lay-off clause. This would help to protect employers from action by small groups in close-knit industries where a few strikers can stop thousands working. It would enable an employer legally to lay off the work-force without pay (but with safeguards) during a dispute, whether or not this is explicitly provided for in contracts of employment. This would make it possible to resist opportunistic claims threatening the interests of the concern and its wider work-force, and would enlist the latter's influence in securing a quick settlement. It affronts no sacred cows and opens no paths to martyrdom. If Mr Tebbit had been as bold here as he promises to be over union immunities, his plan would offer a real prospect of at last setting up a genuinely fair balance of power in British industrial relations.

MR REAGAN CHALLENGES CONGRESS

President Reagan's veto of the stop-gap budget resolution is an indication both of his alarm at the level of public spending and of his determination to continue to take a strong line with Congress. It was evident that not all his senior advisers expected him to go so far. After the damage done to the Administration by the controversies surrounding Mr Haig, Mr Stockman and Mr Allen, the President might have considered it prudent to have a period of consolidation rather than risk the high drama of an open conflict with Congress.

But he has decided to play for higher stakes in the knowledge that his veto would not be overturned on Capitol Hill. He is thereby retaining the initiative in his relationship with Congress that he secured by his earlier victories, most recently his triumph over the Awacs deal. He is also emphasizing in the most dramatic possible fashion the need to curb expenditure.

The immediate effect is inevitably to create a good deal of confusion, but that will not matter much to the Administration if the impasse is resolved in the near future to its satisfaction. The President is well placed to have retained much of his personal popularity in the country. He

has the enviable record of having won his previous battles with Congress, an institution with an ingrained respect for a winner. The need to restrain public expenditure is widely accepted, and the Democrats who control the House of Representatives are aware of the political danger of being labelled "big spenders".

So Mr Reagan will not be going unarmoured into the fray. But no matter what the outcome of this particular contest of wills, it will not solve the deeper problem over the budget that the Administration will face in future years. The prospect is of massive and increasing deficits. There are some who believe that this will not matter, either because the economy is headed for such a severe and prolonged recession that the only consideration will be how to revive activity or because they think that tax cuts will bring about such a revival that extra revenue will close the deficit.

There is no evidence, however, that the President has really embraced either of these schools of thought. He certainly favours tax cuts. He has approved those reductions in direct taxation which have been enacted, and he has resisted proposals to

reduce the deficit by compensating increases in indirect taxation — a move which would have been broadly along the lines adopted by Sir Geoffrey Howe in his first Budget in 1979. But while Mr Reagan wants lower taxes, there is no sign that he is relaxed about the mounting budget deficits that are partly a consequence.

His veto of this stop-gap funding resolution is an indication that he is not prepared to give up the fight against multiplying deficits. But he is not as yet willing to take the more difficult, if perhaps less dramatic, decisions that would be required to reduce future deficits substantially. Not only has he refused to raise taxes, but he is also unwilling to reduce defence expenditure. He has further limited his freedom of action by effectively committing himself not to cut the real value of social security payments until the report of a bipartisan commission which does not as yet exist.

The future of the Administration will depend a great deal upon whether Mr Reagan manages to resolve this dilemma. But if he wins the present trial of strength with Congress it will give a boost to his domestic policy which it now badly needs.

THE AMBIGUITY OF MR PAPANDREOU

If there is one European leader who can be sure of getting his share of attention at this week's London summit it is the prime minister of Greece, Mr Andreas Papandreu. He will be not merely a new face but the head of a new government which is the product of a profound political change, and about whose foreign policy, not least towards the European Community itself, there are many unanswered questions.

His position is comparable to that of the incoming British Labour Government in 1974, which was committed to renegotiate Britain's terms of entry into the Community and then hold a referendum on the result. Mr Papandreu says he would like a referendum on Greek membership, but is careful to add that the President of the Republic, Mr Karamanlis, would be absolutely within his constitutional rights in refusing to hold one. Meanwhile, Mr Papandreu is coming to London to demand what amounts to a renegotiation, with a view to obtaining for Greece a status which "allows the application of our development programme in industry and agriculture, and safeguards our national independence".

His European partners, deeply embroiled in the argument about the Community budget, will listen to him warily and anxiously, hoping that what he really wants is a

good case for staying in the Community rather than an excuse for making it more unworkable than it already is. His chances of winning concessions to Greece's particular interests much beyond those obtained by his predecessor in the original entry negotiations are not great. But there are a number of reforms from which Greece could hope to benefit, and which might have a better chance of being pushed through if the new Greek government gave them its active support. An increased regional fund is an obvious example.

Mr Papandreu's European colleagues will also be anxious to know how far his general foreign policy is going to allow Greece to continue playing her part in European co-operation. It was, after all, mainly his position that held up until yesterday the joint statement by the Ten on the Sinai multinational peacekeeping force: Greece was not willing to endorse any form of words which might seem to imply even indirect acceptance of the Camp David accords.

On that issue, the difference between Mr Papandreu's position and that of say, Lord Carrington may be one of nuance only. On others, the contrast could be much sharper. The thrust of Mr Papandreu's policies is towards non-alignment. He disputes the relevance of Nato

to Greece's defence, arguing that "there is no visible threat from the north", that is, from the Soviet Union, while the main threat to Greece's security comes from a Nato ally, Turkey. He proposes to "disengage" Greece from the Rogers agreement under which, after long and arduous negotiations, she rejoined the military structure of Nato little more than a year ago.

But here too there is ambiguity. Is Mr Papandreu telling us that Greece will again leave the military structure, or is he merely serving notice of his intention to seek better terms for remaining in it? It seems that he means the latter, just as his opposition to American bases in Greece turns out to mean that he wishes them to be regulated by an agreement of specified duration and to be subject to Greek control.

Mr Papandreu is not going to be an easy man to deal with, but nothing he has said in his first month in office suggests he will be impossible. His government has behind it the thirst for change, and for independence, of the Greek people; especially the younger generation. By electing him, the Greeks have exorcised the fearful memories of civil war and dictatorship. They have some reasons to resent the West, but their resentment may yet be overcome if the West reacts with imagination to Mr Papandreu's challenge.

Paisley and British pledges on Ulster

From Professor York Wilks

Sir, Am I alone in finding the treatment of Mr Paisley by much of the British press quite extraordinary? Yesterday's front-page headline, "The Gospel of Hate" (and a number of other papers would serve my argument equally well) above a text that could easily cause one to think that he, and the Protestant community he represents, are in some way the killers, murderers, bank robbers and random bombers who plague us all.

I am not defending, in particular, Mr Paisley's call to make Northern Ireland "ungovernable", but he is not somewhere in the long tradition of politicians in the English-speaking world who have argued, as forcefully as necessary, that a Government cannot flout the will of a political majority beyond a certain limit? He is at this moment in the same position as the state of random murder. Is it his will, and their subsequent complaints and anger, different from that of Londoners or even New Yorkers? Is Mr Paisley's real fault is that he takes the present constitutional position of his province, and the pledged word of this and previous British Governments, seriously, in a way that many influential sections of British opinion now do not. And it is this that makes him both comic and objectionable to them.

Poor Mr Paisley, if he finds himself in the end in that long line of individuals and peoples all over the world who have actually taken the British at their word, only to find that the French were right about us all along. Yours faithfully, YORICK WILKS, University of Essex, Department of Language and Literature, Colchester, November 18.

Nuclear defence

From Sir Bernard Burrows

Sir, In a book published in 1972 I said, in the course of a description of Nato nuclear strategy: "In the event of a conventional attack which cannot be held by conventional means, tactical weapons would be used by the West in very limited numbers. This would have the effect not only of improving the situation on the ground from the Western point of view and imposing a restriction on operations, but of demonstrating will and readiness to escalate".

So there is nothing very new in the doctrine which is now being rather confusedly enunciated and denied in Washington. For those who object to this possible use of nuclear weapons the remedy is clear. Either the superior weight of Soviet conventional forces should be reduced by arms control agreements, or Western conventional forces should be increased sufficiently to be able to resist by conventional means any attack which might be made against them.

The former course has been attempted without much success in many years of negotiation on mutual and balanced force reductions. The latter has usually been held to be politically unacceptable because of the additional cost to the defence budgets of Western governments. Must this continue to be so?

Pending complete disarmament on all sides the possession of nuclear weapons by the West would remain necessary in order to deter Soviet nuclear attack, but reliance on these weapons against conventional attack could be considerably reduced if we were prepared to meet the cost of better conventional forces.

The additional cost could be significantly limited if the European members of the Atlantic Alliance were prepared to pool their separate defence efforts and so achieve greater cost-effectiveness.

Yours faithfully, BERNARD BURROWS, Steep Farm, Petersfield, Hampshire, November 6.

Cost of road repairs

From the Chairman of the Civil Service Motoring Association

Sir, In the present general climate of spending cuts and the reduced attention being paid to the nation's roads, I hear more and more disturbing reports from members in all parts of the country about repairs abandoned or long periods and road surface breaking up through neglect.

Inevitably this will lead to an increase in the number of road accidents, surely to be avoided even if at some cost. Shortly, the winter frosts will accelerate the speed of break-up and escalate the costs of repairs when the authorities are finally forced to deal with the problem.

Surely a case of a patch in time saving lives and the taxpayer's pocket in the long run. Yours faithfully, DEBBIE A. HALL, Chairman, The Civil Service Motoring Association Ltd., Britannia House, Queens Road, Brighton.

Change in S Africa

From Mr Edward Grayson

Sir, Your leading article and report (November 13) on Mr Botha's meeting with South African business leaders each omit one area which almost daily keeps that country in the world's mind and eye — international sport and the way in which it can lead to peaceful rather than violent change in the universally objectionable apartheid laws. Already South African sport has set the pace for the rest of the world's field with the impact on the government of its parallel commission to that set up in 1980 under the chairmanship of Professor J. C. Van der Walt from the same university to investigate and make recommendations about

Implementing higher education cuts

From Professor D.M. Blow, FRS

and others

Sir, Sir Keith Joseph's claim that damage to the university sector will "only be slight and in a very few areas", and his statement in debate yesterday (Parliamentary Report, November 19) that the university system was being adjusted in favour of science and engineering with the dual support system for research being protected as far as possible, can all be countered by one specific example.

The Imperial College of Science and Technology is the country's largest scientific and engineering institution, and has a fair claim to be the leading institution of this type on the basis of its standards of teaching and research, in its postgraduate members, in its involvement with industry and Government research establishments, and indeed in its Nobel laureates. It consistently lies in the top four UK universities in terms of external research grant and contract income per head of academic staff and is comparable at most five or six similar institutes of science and technology worldwide.

The entirely erroneous and misleading nature of Sir Keith's statements is exemplified by the fact that Imperial College is currently projecting its loss of recurrent income by late 1983 as 17 per cent, a percentage cut far higher than that applied to other parts of the public sector and almost exactly the average now being applied to the university system as a whole, despite repeated implications that institutions such as Imperial were somehow being protected.

The college does not have large numbers of aging academics for early retirement, nor does it have soft options as to what can be closed. As a result it is presently planning to reduce its staff by 10 per cent across the board, with the consequent probable destruction of entire research teams.

In these circumstances Sir Keith's claim that the damage will only be slight is clearly not sustainable. Our aim is to parade the merits of Imperial College but rather to demonstrate some typical consequences of the Government's ill-conceived policies on higher education. Other universities face situations that are equally or even more disastrous.

Saving film records

From Mr Michael Relf

Sir, David Robinson in his article (November 18) on the work of the National Film Archive is right to stress the vital importance of public funding of the nitrate film conversion programme.

For the very first time, and for a finite period of just about 50 years, a moving picture record of our history, culture, and taste was recorded on highly perishable film. Value judgments made so close to the events cannot be reliable in the light of history, and the preservation of the record in as complete a form as possible is something that we owe to posterity.

If the Government does not maintain and increase its funding of the BFI nitrate conversion programme unique historical records will literally go up in smoke. Yours sincerely, MICHAEL RELF, The Lodge, Primrose Hill Studios, Fitzroy Road, NW1.

Prementorial tension

From Mrs Kenneth Ulyatt

Sir, Writing in *The Portmanteau Review* in 1874, Dr Henry Mandley, then at the height of his fame, suggested that because of the increasing education of men, the higher education of women was undesirable. He was answered by Dr Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, and his name has been held up to execration by convinced feminists ever since.

If never two recent judgments has travelled so far, there must be a certain wry satisfaction on the banks of the Styx. Yours etc, FRANCES MARGARET ULYATT, 134 Knights Hill, SE27.

accidents, surely to be avoided even if at some cost. Shortly, the winter frosts will accelerate the speed of break-up and escalate the costs of repairs when the authorities are finally forced to deal with the problem.

Surely a case of a patch in time saving lives and the taxpayer's pocket in the long run. Yours faithfully, DEBBIE A. HALL, Chairman, The Civil Service Motoring Association Ltd., Britannia House, Queens Road, Brighton.

discriminatory legislation and practices which could be said to inhibit normal sporting relations within the republic. In September 1980, a report was submitted to the government which was announced in May of this year acceptance of its recommendations to amend the restrictive legislative areas affecting sport, the Group Areas Act, the Blacks (Urban Areas) Consolidation Act and the now already amended Liquor Act.

Encouraged by this response Professor Van der Walt more recently announced last September at an international symposium on sports and recreation held at Potchefstroom University that a "new legal committee is investigating discriminatory provincial ordinances, municipal regulations in major urban centres and the legality of otherwise of making public facilities, privately owned by local authorities, available for sporting events on a discriminatory basis". The completed report is expected by the end of this year.

If Sir Keith is a man of reason rather than of dogma, he must at once order a complete re-examination by the DES of the current chaotic situation. Further refusal by the Government to accept responsibility for the consequences of these massive cuts in university finance can only be interpreted as a complete loss of control and abnegation of national responsibilities. Yours faithfully, DAVID M. BLOW, DAVID BURGESS, IAN BUTTERWORTH, G. H. C. NEW, T. W. B. KIRBLE, Imperial College of Science and Technology, The Blackett Laboratory, Prince Consort Road, SW7, November 19.

From Professor D. F. Lawden. Sir, The universities' case for special consideration in the difficult circumstances in which we now find ourselves in respect of surplus staff is not helped by exhibitions of sloppy thinking such as that offered by Mr Peter Mott (November 20).

The naive view that the breaking of a promise or contract is invariably immoral fails to survive the most elementary analysis. Clearly, when deciding such a question, the contract cannot be divorced from its consequences. The fulfilling of some contracts, such as "Shylock's", would be decidedly immoral. Some contracts carry immoral consequences from the day they are signed, whereas others develop such effects as time passes and the position may not be clear-cut.

In regard to the universities' situation, we have to balance the breaking of a contract entered into with some members of staff in circumstances radically different from those now prevailing, against possible bankruptcy leading to closure and redundancy of every member of staff. The decision taken is likely to be purely black or white in its moral aspect.

Yours truly, D. F. LAWDEN, Department of Mathematics, The University of Aston in Birmingham, Gosta Green, Birmingham, November 21.

'Wilfred and Eileen'

From Mrs Marjorie Seldon

Sir, It is understandable that Mr Dennis Hackett should be sceptical (review of BBC's *Wilfred and Eileen*) that a young woman in 1914 could have broken through official "discouragement", got a passport to travel to France to find her wounded husband at a base hospital, and obtained the army doctors' reluctant consent to bring him home. Your reviewer's reference to lack of "validity and substance" seems to suggest that it could not have happened. It did. Wilfred and Eileen Willett were my parents.

The story was recreated by Jonathan Smith from my father's autobiographical material and letters. The passport signed by Sir Edward Grey (Foreign Secretary) for "Eileen Willett, aged 22" is a treasured family document. So is my father's citation for "gallant and distinguished conduct in the field" signed by Winston S. Churchill (Secretary of State for War). So is the letter written to my father in hospital by the soldier for whom he risked his life and lost the use of his right arm and leg as the result of the sniper's bullet.

Mr Hackett apparently does not know that tin helmets did not come in until 1916. I remember my father saying he didn't have one, and that very little was known about the treatment of leg wounds in the early days of the First World War. He would have died if my mother had not been so determined to bring him home. She was, as Mr Hackett says with incredulity, a most resolute young woman and perhaps, as he speculated, the war with its slaughter would not have continued so long if there had been more like her.

I am grateful to the BBC for not only stating that the story was based on truth but treating it with great sensitivity as involving real people with family still living.

Yours truly, MARJORIE SELDON, The Thatched Cottage, Godden Green, Sevenoaks, Kent, November 19.

These developments should be placed alongside the conclusions from the various fact-finding commissions into South African sport from Britain, France, New Zealand and the International Tennis Federation to the effect that changes in the organisation of South African sporting governing bodies have already created multi-racial structures to qualify for Mr Botha's alternative choice (to dying) of adapting. You are doubtless correct to claim for education that "the practical response to the Lange commission shows that adaptation has not started yet". The government response to Professor Van der Walt's legal sports commission creates a new dimension for the example which sport and leisure can give to the society in which it lives if allowed to develop naturally, peacefully and constructively.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully, EDWARD GRAYSON, 4 Paper Buildings, Temple, EC4, November 15.

Significance of Vickers sentence

From Mr Paul Sieghart

Sir, A jury has found a distinguished surgeon guilty of murdering his wife. For that, the law prescribes a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment, leaving it to the Home Secretary, on the advice of the Parole Board, to decide when the prisoner may safely be released. But a trial judge is entitled to recommend that a prisoner should not be released for some minimum period, so effectively fettering the Home Secretary's discretion and imposing a determinate sentence that cannot be reduced either by parole or by remission for good conduct.

In the case of the surgeon the trial judge thought it right to recommend a minimum period of 17 years, and this prisoner cannot therefore be released until he is 64 from what a recent correspondent in these columns, who knows that he is writing about, has called our "penal dustbins". One is driven to wonder what purpose this can serve.

The purposes of imprisonment are supposed to be the reform of the prisoner, the protection of the public from his future depredations, and the deterrence of him and others from committing similar crimes. None of these seem particularly relevant in this case: surgeons seldom murder their wives, and if in exceptional circumstances they do they are decidedly unlikely to do it again, let alone to become a danger to others.

This recommendation must therefore be designed to serve some other objectives, such as retribution, punishment, and the public expression of anger and outrage at a respected member of a great profession committing a shocking act. Some would call that vindication, others vindictiveness. The similarity between those two words is no accident: they reflect the related notions of avenging and revenge.

This may perhaps be a suitable occasion for asking ourselves whether values of vindication (or vindictiveness) should continue to play such an important part — indeed, on some occasions such as this one, the only part — in our sentencing policy.

Yours etc, PAUL SIEGHART, 6 Gray's Inn Square, WC1, November 23.

Checks on prisons

From Mr Marcus J. Cummins

Sir, For one who purports to be writing with the authority of experience (November 23), Mr T. Dan Smith appears to be singularly ill-informed.

In the first instance he confuses boards of visitors with prison visitors and secondly (and more importantly) seems unaware of the mandatory requirement that in all enquiries by a Board into alleged breaches of prison discipline, the accused inmate must be asked if he wishes to call witnesses. The inmate has also to be provided, before a hearing, with a card which sets out fully the procedure which will be followed. Failure to observe either of these requirements could leave a Board's decision open to judicial review.

In the case cited by Mr Smith (*Regina v The Board of Visitors of Brixton Prison*, November 3, 1981), the learned judge had clearly satisfied himself, from a transcript of the Board's proceedings, that the Board had done everything that was required of them and that they were not themselves in breach of any rule. It was not the judge's job to inquire into the way in which the Board had done its job, but to see if it had done it properly. The judge himself had this to say: "In certain cases an order of certiorari might quash the decision of justices where the failure had been that of another (see *R v Leyland Justices ex parte Hawthorn*). The situation was similar to Leyland, where a failure by the prosecution led to a failure by the justices who were not themselves responsible."

Yours faithfully, M. J. CUMMINS (Member and Past-Chairman, Board of Visitors, HM Prison, Maidstone), Lark Rise, Boxley, Maidstone, Kent.

Festival Hall box

From Mr Ian Hunter

Sir, On November 9 we presented Claudio Arrau at the Royal Festival Hall and last night the Boston Symphony Orchestra. On Wednesday, November 11, I attended a concert of the Royal Philharmonic Society. On all three occasions the ceremonial box was empty.

The hall was full on each occasion and I feel it is an insult to the artists using the hall that the box should remain unoccupied. Even if the present administrators at County Hall are not interested, surely the mayors of the boroughs or members of the GLC services could be offered the use of the box. IAN HUNTER, Chairman and Managing Director, Harold Holt Limited, 31 Sinclair Road, W14, November 17.

Matrimonial burdens

From Mrs Adrian Webb

Sir, What a lot of fuss! We women won the battle of the sexes in the Garden of Eden; why do some of my sisters continue to labour the point?

I am terribly thrilled at being assessed at £204 per week. I can now occupy my endless hours of idleness in delightful speculation on how I should spend my (unpaid) wages. Yours boringly contented, NOREEN ST. J. WEBB, Cowleaze Paddock, Hartham, Near Corsham, Wiltshire.

THE ARTS

Television

Magic at the top

Invitations to preview BBC Light Entertainment programmes occur rarely and are not turned down. "How are you?" complete strangers are asked as they arrive, to which the correct reply is a fervent "I'm very, very well". Firm handshakes, comfortable weights, bright shining eyes and one glittering top at eleven o'clock in the morning: this is LE at its right, the Low Church evangelism of British Pop. The Press are firmly tucked into the best seats on the top row, shocking pink kits on their knees, eager to find out precisely what magic has unlocked the hospitality cupboard on behalf of Norman Spence's four programmes called Cliff (BBC 2). Quality has little to do with promotional budgets, although on this occasion it turns out to be high. Cliff is lively, enthusiastic, and far from insouciant.

Several courses precede the unveiling of the opening programme, and the first is live, or rather raw: the Fantom come on. Cliff Richard stayed at the top for so long that we are now into Cliff Richard Revival — one of the remarkable aspects of the series is the way in which pale imitation and vigorous original exist side by side, and the Fantoms are the Neo-Shadows of the movement.

Then comes a taste of programme four, in which Cliff says that he has long been through all the debates as to whether or not he is any good, has ever truly sung Rock, or is gay; programme three in which he undertakes his first tour of America for twenty years and is (1980, this) besieged by screaming girls in New York who wish simply to get him on the ground — it is Sheffield Lyceum, 1961, all over again, with the mob trying to get in through the back windows, apprentices backs trembling at the sound.

Programme one, when we got to it, was very good indeed: slick, informative, funny and sad, full of good interviews and packed with songs. It was taken over completely, whenever he appeared, by the Oxonian Jack Good, original producer of *Oh, Boy!* and biggest eyesnasher of the lot, who taught Cliff how to clutch his left arm with his right hand in that tender, funny way. The pink jacket, the smoulder whilst retaining his innocence. "THE BEE GEES!" exclaimed Mr Good, with triumphant disgust. "BORING AS HELL! I'm glad I've retired." It was hard to believe that he had, or so that he was Mr Mortier.

Michael Ratcliffe

Galleries

Revelation of consistency

Late Sickness

Hayward Gallery

Sickert

Browse and Darby

Lutyens

Hayward Gallery

Gertrude Jekyll

Architectural Association

William Burges, "Art-Architect"

Victoria and Albert Museum

William Burges, Designs for Cardiff Castle

Geffrye Museum

I would not wish to suggest that looking modern is necessarily a good thing to a painter. But the fact remains that the very first thing which strikes one, arriving on the top floor of the Hayward Gallery, is the extraordinary intimacy and immediacy of what one sees: everything there could have been painted yesterday, and if it had been we would all be extremely impressed. But it was not. It was painted between 54 and 40 years ago, at just the time when English painters were dipping a dainty toe in the dark waters of Surrealism or working their way painfully towards abstraction or combining, with splendid if slightly ridiculous disregard for what was going on in the rest of the world, along the academic highroad to commercial success and artistic nonentity.

Of course Sickert was much too awkward an old man to do any of these things. But not too many people, then or since, liked what he did so very much. The significance of the starting-date 1927 for the Arts Council's new show Late Sickness is that it is the year when he painted the first of his "echoes" — paintings

based on, and freely varying, popular Victorian prints. As if that were not bad enough as an admission of the sorry state the great man had come to, he also made no bones about painting many of his portraits from photographs and basing most of his figure compositions of the period on press pictures, film stills and random snapshots. He even had assistants, including his wife Therese Lessore, to lay down the outlines of paintings and sometimes paint virtually the whole canvas, but for a few final touches of colour and the signature.

Terrible. How can one take such an artist seriously? Especially a once-great artist. No wonder there were rumblings about his "tragic deterioration" and a theory of the two Sickerts was born: good Sickert up to 1930 at the latest, and bad Sickert thereafter. But nothing in art is that simple. In the last few years we have got used to hearing about similar — and much less officially acceptable — studio routines from Pop artists without turning a hair, or thinking for a moment that all this rules the resultant works out of serious consideration. It has become a minor fashion, therefore, to see Late Sickness as a herald of Pop Art, and to talk about his special relevance to new English painting.

This ignores the fact that it is early Sickert most of our younger painters like, but it has also got a genuine observation the wrong way round. It is not so much that late Sickert has become relevant to us as that we have become relevant to him. In this situation the Hayward show is extraordinarily timely. First of all because it isolates this late phase in Sickert's career and enables us to look at it alone, instead of apologetically tagging on a few late works to a general survey. It does not insist on quality as the only criterion for admission, but seeks rather to show us a wide variety of late Sickert and let us judge for ourselves. And, taking that approach, it amazes us with the vitality and freshness of the man (who was, after all, 67 in 1927), the new brilliance of colour and the extraordinary inventiveness.

Yes, inventiveness. If Sickert's use of source material other than people and objects in the world about him, directly observed with his own eyes, is the stumbling-block, it need not be. The Victorian prints and news photos are only the starting-point which he evolved something entirely



his own. And something entirely consistent with what he had done before. If you compare some of the early works in Browse and Darby's useful little companion Sickert show (until December 22), you will immediately see pictures like *The Journal of C. 1906* which you would otherwise swear owed their odd viewpoint to photography. You will see the same themes treated, generally with greater delicacy and more nuances it is true, but that need not make them better.

But finally the Hayward show works thrillingly, not just as an art historian's footnote but as a major reclamation job in its own right. It forces us to take the late Sickert seriously, but it also in effect presents us with a whole new painter, one we could never have expected to be so good and whom it is an uncomplicated

delight to know. If, say, *The Plaza Tiller Girls* (1928), with its wonderfully garish, tawdry line-up, or *The Standard Theatre, Shaftesbury* (1935-36), or *The Miner* of the same date, or *Easter* (c. 1928) with Dawson Bros window full of hats, or that incredible last landscape, *Bathampton* (c. 1941), all in bold patches of pink and green, had turned up under an unknown name in the famous 1964 *New Generation* show which introduced Hockney, Caulfield and the rest, we should not have been at all surprised; merely expectant of brilliant things in the future from this amazingly gifted young man.

Downstairs at the Hayward (on, like *Late Sickness*, until January 31) is not surprising in quite the same way, but it does contain surprises too. The problem with the career of Sir Edwin Lutyens, English architect, is that it was so long, so fertile

and so various that it has always been difficult to grasp as a whole. Instead we tend to take refuge in his generalizations about his being the architectural laureate of Imperial Britain, remember New Delhi, a few First World War memorials and the odd baroque bank, and conveniently forget the rest. That this show certainly does not allow us to do.

Through an amazingly transformed space (Lutyens would surely have detested today's South Bank) it leads us stage by stage from his beginning in Arts and Crafts tradition, by way of the smaller country houses, to Castle Drogo, that extraordinary Devonshire Gormangham, mansions in France, castles in Spain, churches (gothic or classical according to denomination) in Hampshire, Garden Suburb, and a mass of unbuilt projects including a univer-

"The Old Bedford", c.1894: a starting-point from which Sickert evolved something entirely his own

sity in India, a mansion overlooking the Hudson River, an art gallery for Dublin slung across the Liffey, a new narthex for Westminster Abbey...

And of course the lamented Roman Catholic Cathedral for Liverpool, vain of postwar economies after only the crypt had been built. The original model for this, painstakingly restored, comes as a sort of climax to the show, and demonstrates sadly what we are missing. But let us think of what we have got. Enough, certainly, and some — perhaps those who also find Elgar insupportable — would say more than enough. Yet again there is no doubting the brilliance of the man, or his versatility. His work is so diverse in style that one might think it impossible a consistent character could come through. Yet it does.

The show, cunningly staged to make most use of the space available, does right by almost every phase of Lutyens's career, in fine photographs, contemporary documents, models, pieces of furniture and fittings designed by Lutyens, and even re-created rooms. It is the opposite of a dry-as-dust academic approach, yet you find out just as much this way as that about the work, and much more about the man even down to the cartoons he used to draw for the *V* magazine of his children and friends. Clearly the idea of Lutyens has really caught on: there are a whole pile of books, which I shall be reviewing in due course, a delightful (and informative) show at the Architectural Association devoted to his friend and sometime collaborator, the landscape gardener Gertrude Jekyll (until December 12), and even a show at Francis Kyle of works in various media by 12 modern artists who have been influenced by Lutyens's architecture and designed as a homage to him (until January 20).

Meanwhile, I should at least mention that the riveting show devoted to William Burges, "Art-Architect", which I wrote about at length when it opened in Cardiff, in close proximity to two of his greatest, maddest creations, Cardiff Castle and Castell Coch, has now reached London: it is ensconced in the Victoria and Albert Museum until January 17. At the same time, the run of a small travelling show of Burges's Designs for Cardiff Castle at the Geffrye Museum has been extended until December 20.

John Russell Taylor

Interview



London to the life

Helene Hanff is a New York writer who struggled through to late middle age on television scripts and children's history books. Not a bad living, but her standards were high, besotted as she is by the sense that her language is that of Shakespeare, Hazlitt and Newman. Then ten years ago she published *84 Charing Cross Road*, a collection of letters springing from her dealings with a London bookseller, and she was successful.

"I'm stupefied by everything that's connected with it, kid," she announced in a London hotel suite which is bigger than her New York apartment. The latest stupefying incarnation of the book is as a play at the Ambassadors, opening on Thursday, for which she has made her sixth visit to London since the first in 1971 which was documented in *The Duchess of Bloomsbury Street*, the sequel to the letters.

Her radiant enthusiasm for the city in that book is enough to embarrass the average Londoner and give tourism a good name. She is unafraid to rave about Wren or Nash or to weep at Vivien Leigh's plaque on the wall of St Paul's, Covent Garden. She also wept during the making of the television version of *84* when the actress playing her sifted through her books: "It was as if I was dead."

As for the stage version, which stars Rosemary Leach, she is encouraged by the reviews it is getting in the provinces but nervous and unsure of when she will see it. "You never can tell when it's going to get you. In the television version I thought I would cry when Frank Doel died but it was when she was there with the books." So the book and its transformation of her life retain their intoxicating quality but the bookshop itself and even her view of London have now been modified by time. She doesn't visit the site of Marks & Co any more; it is in any case now no more than a plywood frontage in a renovated building. The turning-point was a painting.

"It was a water-colour by Ena Marks, the daughter-in-law of the owner. It showed the scaffolding outside. It looked as if the shop was fading away."

As for London: "It has become so xenophobic. It's startling that a city so old and so sophisticated should be so afraid of outsiders." But she still thinks Bloomsbury is as it was in Jane Austen's day and St John's Wood High Street has the feel of the 1790s.

And, although the book has been a success in the States, it remains the English who are most intoxicated by it. "It recalls an era to English people. In that time just after the war incidents that happened are very real to people. I didn't even know about them."

"Even the sequel... I didn't read it when I sent it off. But I read it later and it sounded like a parody of every evasive tourist but I got letters that absolutely melted me. I got a letter from an Englishman who lived in the Cotswolds, a postman who couldn't afford a car — he'd always wanted to visit London. I mean he was two hundred miles away!"

Seldom can success have failed so utterly to go to somebody's head. She still speaks with distant awe of writers, living and dead, as if she barely feels qualified to pronounce the syllables.

Max Harrison

Bryan Appleyard

Opera

Pritchard's touch of class

Don Carlo

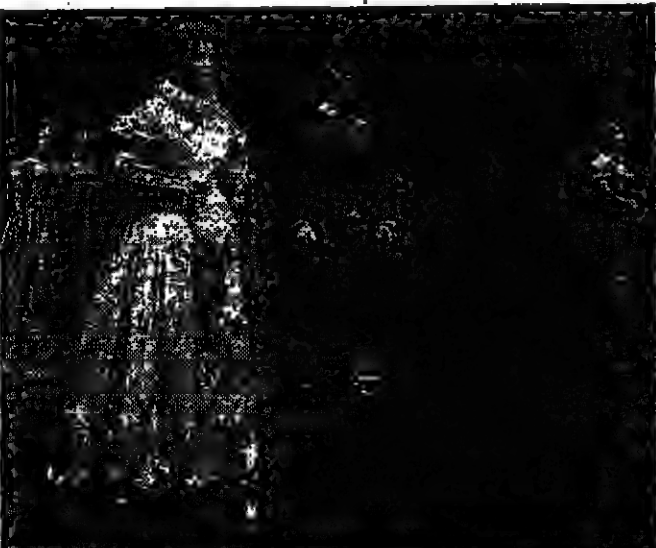
Theatre Royale de la Monnaie, Brussels

Around the Rue Leopold, the breeze of change is apparent and is causing the leaves of rumour to stir, sometimes unseasonably. Gerard Mortier, as director of the Opera National at the Theatre Royale de la Monnaie has begun, and he has let it be known that a consistently higher musical standard in performances of opera is to be a major priority. To emphasize the point, John Pritchard has been appointed musical director, to bring a long expertise that ought to be formidable assets in pointing things the way M. Mortier would like them to go.

All this should be welcomed, but the Belgians love their ballet, and the triumphs of Maurice Bejart are guarded jealously in the memory. Can a new tradition of operatic excellence emerge other than at the expense of the ballet? It is the question one hears voiced as a cautious supplementary to the good wishes as M. Mortier assumes command.

For good wishes there are in plenty. At the conclusion of the first night of the new regime, a new production of *Don Carlo*, the house rang to cries of "Mortier! Mortier!" It takes time for a new administration to stamp its identity on finished products, but portents are encouraging.

That Mr Pritchard will have plenty of work ahead before the Monnaie's orchestra can win promotion to the premier division was apparent, that they are capable of fine things was also apparent. Horn fluffs, a far from unanimous quality in the upper strings, and a total tone that blended effortlessly rather than instinctively was noted, yet by



Helena Doose (left), Benjamin Luxon, Livia Budai

the end of the evening one sensed eagerness to respond, and we were hearing the characteristics of a Pritchard Verdi performance in the eloquent shaping of postures to arias, inner nuances of expression carefully nursed, and climaxes that developed inexorably.

The chorus needs attention, probably even weeding. The sound is less flexible than it needs to be and, in the case of the women, sometimes positively unattractive. Yet, for Mr Pritchard, it was a good start, with the score's peaks superbly fashioned, the accompaniment, if sometimes roughly textured, always compellingly relevant to the argument.

Darkness, in fact, was the dominant feature of Gilbert Deffo's production. The Foucaultian scene, so important both in narrative explanation and as a reservoir of motifs from which the score flows, was omitted, and while one regretted its loss, one was also left wondering whether, given the chance, M. Deffo might not have decided to treat it as something taking place during an eclipse.

Ezio Frigorio's sets, minimal and easily manoeuvrable, and consisting mostly of tall pillars, added to an atmosphere of heavy claustrophobia.

Any production of *Don Carlo* that centres around an infantile so ill-equipped vocal-

Bini starts with a severe handicap, and no matter how well things might be going elsewhere, he was always around to bring us back to earth with a jolt. Livia Budai had a success with "O don fatale", yet generally lacked the vitality to persuade us that this Eboli really did have a fatal gift of allure. Helena Doose was a sympathetic Elisabeth, albeit a restrained one, noble in her appreciation of the queen's emotional conflict. If sometimes deficient in vocal warmth.

The evening's triumph on stage belonged to José van Dam as Philip II. Here and there one sensed that some of the music lay rather low for him, but he encompassed this with such artistry that it never mattered. He drew back a curtain on often unexplored human corners in Philip's make-up, affection lurking behind wrath and an iron facade. Benjamin Luxon, a Posa worthy of standing up to this Philip, was the other vocal success. Singing with generous expression, acting with poise and assurance, he followed a profoundly felt "Per me giunto" with an even more beautifully sung and deeply moving "O Carlo ascolta", and then a gasping slide into a realistic death.

In these two studies, and the intentions of Mr Pritchard's direction, we were in sight of the arena into which M. Mortier would like to move opera at the Monnaie.

Kenneth Loveland

Concerts

Barbaric dance of pagan jubilation

LPO/Handley

Festival Hall

It was St Cecilia's Day on Sunday and I expected that Vernon Handley, a doughty, valuable champion of this country's music, would bring out, for his South Bank concert with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and its choir, an English work in honour of music's patron saint. The repertoire of the Restoration, at the end of the seventeenth century, offers abundant examples.

In the event, his concert was built up to a modern festive hymn, Walton's *Bach*, which I take to be as brilliant and pagan as any of Handel's oratorios, a choral jubilation which ranks, for my generation, only with Holst's *Hymn of Jeremiah* and its choir, an English work in honour of music's patron saint.

Belshazzar's Feast has never lost its exhilarating power: the Babylonian last days and Jewish goodies are pure film material. Even the contemplative part of the choral finale makes sense, as a ceremony of relief and thanksgiving (modern and athenic) for the end of a desperate war, soon to be resumed.

The dancers are performing on a volcano: the writing on the wall has appeared for the 1930s again, as for the Sumerians — and Walton's cantata brings that dance again into our own, Paisley-bedevilled decade.

The dancing element, Walton's chief innovation to oratorio since Handel (not jazz; though I am sure it comes from jazz), came off least well in this performance, rather heavy and official, as if the Israelites were in charge, not the Babylonians.

The praise of the gods of gold, silver, etc., was quite sober, Jerusalem considered not seriously as a chief joy for which one would go to the execution block. Michael Rippon's solos needed the true stunner, the LPO choir a firmer precision.

The audience was happy: only those who have adored this cantata, since we were children, know the intensity and brilliance of colour that it requires; we have heard it, and been changed for ever,

on Sunday nobody is likely to have changed. Unless through Enmy Verhey's violin concerto, a physically thrilling interpretation which proposed the female alternative to the accepted male proposal of love that I took for granted in this music, not yet an achievement, but a suggestion.

William Mann

Nash Ensemble

Wigmore Hall

Halfway through its programme of six concerts, the Nash Ensemble's Russian series was glided and fixed in the memory by the presence of Felicity Palmer. Those who had heard her extraordinary moving performance in Shostakovich's fourteenth symphony recently on the South Bank must have come with high expectations: of a driving and completely unfettered emotional response, articulated through fluid, maleable Russian vowels and consonants, and an identification with each poem's mood so deeply absorbed and forcefully projected that the listener, in turn, is drawn deep inside each song.

These qualities were now at the service of seven Rachmaninov songs. Their contrasting moods were built and sustained with densely focused intensity, from the bright, ringing, timbre of "Music" to the dark, tearing agony of "The Soldier's Wife". In the bending of line and dynamic level in "The Ring" the voice's core burned its way through as if forging the gold itself.

Ian Brown, who was Miss Palmer's empathic accompanist, led the way in Shostakovich's Op 57 Piano Quartet. Strident, uncompromising quartet playing sustained the musical intensity to the extent that a string of Roger Chase's viola broke and the Fugue had to be started all over again. Nothing deterred, a concert with a spare, sure beauty, a gently questioning character as each part found its own level. The mellow, classical heart of the work was searched out here and in the intermezzo's tenderness, while Mr Brown's nimble, sweet-voiced piano playing

added grace to the brittle jollity of the Scherzo and Finale even if it did throw into relief some rather strident violin playing.

Amusing, Shostakovich wryly observed, was an epithet freely used by Prokofiev — even of Berg's *Wozzeck*. Amusing, too, was Prokofiev's own Quintet in G minor, adapted from the Paris ballet music *Trapeze*. Oboe, clarinet, violin, viola and double bass tackled their quirky and testing writing with courage and gusto, though without quite enough assurance and finesse to straddle back and forth at its dry, strutting, posser's wit.

Hilary Finch

Gary Karr

Wigmore Hall

Torelli's G major Sonata is not exactly a memorable piece, yet on Sunday it proved a useful one for gaining acquaintance with Gary Karr. He played it not on the expected instrument, but on the double bass; and he did so amazingly. To say that his articulation is at least as easy as that of a good cellist is almost certainly to miss the point, for it never sounded like anything except a double bass. Yet this was a double bass transformed, with a greatly enlarged personality, and potentiality, of its own.

The lyrical qualities that lie hidden in its vast recesses, best, however, in romantic terrain, and this was the matter at issue in Paul Ramsier's *Eusebius Revisited*. This was a recomposition of a series of Bachmann piano pieces so arranged as to suggest the gradual emergence and then retreat of the most intimately poetic side of that composer's personality. Here Mr

Karr displayed a quite extraordinary beauty of tone, shaded with many subtle inflections.

In the interview published on this page last Friday Mr Karr said he wanted to be associated not with a specialized double bass repertoire but with the main body of musical literature. He achieved that most notably on this occasion with a remarkable transcription of Anron Copland's Violin Sonata made for him by the composer. To hear it played thus is a strange experience for those who know the work thoroughly, yet it undeniably was there was some distinguished playing here, too, from Mr Karr's pianist, Harmon Lewis.

Bruch's *Kol Nidrei* demonstrated again Mr Karr's beautiful sense of line, his command of rising and falling levels of intensity. We did finally reach the double bass repertoire, with Bottesini's *Sonambula Fantasy*. This offered melodies and mock heroics, and was great fun throughout.

Max Harrison

Bryan Appleyard



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Business News

THE TIMES Tuesday, November 24, 1981

1,100 more jobs lost at three companies

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Industry was hit yesterday by a further round of redundancy and closure announcements affecting sectors as diverse as shoes, processed meat and hydraulic cranes and resulting in job losses in excess of 1,100.

The biggest cutback, announced by Clark's, the West Country footwear company, which is to close its Minehead plant in Somerset with the loss of 200 jobs and is calling for a further 650 redundancies throughout its 13 other factories in the United Kingdom and Eire and, at the firm's headquarters at Street, Somerset.

The Minehead factory is being closed because of reduced demand for lined boots, the plant's principal product, and the company said a for alternative had been unsuccessful.

Clark's said the overall streamlining operation was the result of cheap imports and the necessary voluntary redundancy terms and early retirement is to be offered initially.

The company employs about 8,200 workers, of which 3,500 are in the West Country. Many of the plants were put on short-time working recently and some have been operating a three-day week since October.

Almost 200 jobs will be lost following the decision by Leamstock, part of the Ross Foods Group, to close its meat processing factory at Shrewsbury in February. More than 50 employees at the Shrewsbury plant were made redundant in August in a bid to improve the plant's trading position but the company said yesterday that this had not occurred.

A drop in demand for hydraulic cranes has forced Atlas Hydraulic Loaders of Blackwood, Lancashire, to make 83 workers redundant—more than half of the labour force. The company said yesterday that the current recession on its business had been worse than anticipated.

SHIPYARD TALKS DEADLOCK

Talks between leaders of shipbuilding unions and British Shipbuilders broke down last night over the long-running dispute at Robb Caledon, the Dundee shipyard facing closure. Now the unions' shipbuilding negotiating committee is to recommend withdrawal from all national negotiations with employers on pay and conditions.

This proposal will be put to a national delegate conference of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions at Newcastle on Thursday. If approved, it could mean an end to nearly three years of centralized bargaining in the industry which has seen British Shipbuilders rise from the ashes to an order book which is the best for years.

At one time, each union bargained at plant level—a total 168 negotiations. Employers said that to reopen Robb Caledon, even on a temporary basis, would only be raising false hopes.

Howe plans to release his new economic forecast next week

By David Blake, Economics Editor

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, intends to make his long-awaited statement setting out Government economic forecasts for the year ahead sometime next week.

There are also likely to be announcements on public spending plans. The Government's timetable was revealed by the Treasury Select Committee of the Commons yesterday as the Chancellor came in for some rough questioning on how he sees economic recovery coming about.

Sir Geoffrey had an unhappy session as he was quizzed by Conservative and Labour members who were sceptical of the way in which the Chancellor expects recovery to come. He was accused of one stage of saying that, although most of the components of output looked gloomy, a recovery was bound to come, none the less.

He came in for the heaviest questioning on the point that a general improvement in economic per-



Sir Geoffrey: sidestepping questions on money rates.

formance above all productivity, is needed if the economy is to recover. The Chancellor quoted the experience of the GEC Hitachi plant at Harlow, South

Wales, where productivity had risen, and as a result, 400 new jobs had been created. People had to break out of believing that Britain's economic decline was inevitable. They had talked themselves into the same position as the character in *West Side Story* who after a long catalogue of the social reason for delinquency came to the conclusion that it was because the people in question were no good.

There were repeated attempts by the committee to pin down the Chancellor on the Government's policy on exchange rates and interest rates. These failed. The Chancellor did agree with Mr Terence Higgins, Conservative MP for Worthing that interest rates could only fall if both the exchange rate and the money supply were behaving satisfactorily. But he ducked questions from a number of MPs designed to get a more detailed view of just what weight the Government gives to these two factors.

There was particularly sharp questioning from Dr Jeremy Bray, Labour MP for Motherwell and Wishaw who pointed out that the Government published a great deal of monetary information but does not, at present, say exactly what it is hoping to achieve.

Dr Bray argued that the fact that large amounts of tax are still to be paid in the current year should reduce the money supply quite sharply. He was told by Treasury officials that about £5,500m is currently outstanding of which all but £750m to £1,000m is expected to be collected by the end of the current financial year.

The Chancellor was asked about Bank of England paper saying that the Bank had agreed to stop interest rates falling too fast. He made it clear that, as reported in *The Times* last week, this action was taken with the full authority of the Treasury.

The Chancellor side-stepped questions about how much growth there would need to be to stop unemployment rising and about pessimistic figures recently produced in the Central Statistical Office's leading indicator series.

EEC jobless to reach 10 million by year end

From Peter Norman, Brussels, Nov 23

The number of registered unemployed in the EEC will reach 10 million before the end of this year, according to Eurostat, the EEC's Statistical Office in Luxembourg.

The office reported today that the number of people out of work had risen to 9.7 million, or 8.3 per cent of the civilian working population in the EEC, by the end of October. This figure was 32 per cent or more than 2.3 million higher than the unemployment total at the end of October last year.

Over the year, the number of jobless rose at an average rate of 45 per cent in West Germany and the Netherlands. Although in absolute terms Britain with nearly three million unemployed had the greatest number out of work, the highest unemployment rate was recorded in Belgium, where 12.7 per cent of the working population were jobless against 11.5 per cent in the United Kingdom.

Italy and France both had more than two million out of work at the end of last year, but in West Germany the total was nearly 1.4 million, while in Belgium, Eurostat put the jobless total at over half a million. The latest indicator of business opinion, published today by the European Commission, also takes a gloomy view of future prospects for the EEC economy.

The Commission's business climate indicator declined by half of one per cent in October after registering continuous improvements between May and September.

The Commission said that a striking development in the October survey was a decline of four percentage points in the business climate indicator for Britain, reflecting a drop of six percentage points in production expectations.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE EEC DURING OCTOBER

Total per cent

	Total	per cent
Belgium	518,700	12.7
United Kingdom	2,988,600	11.5
Denmark	215,800	8.2
France	2,001,900	8.6
Greece	26,400	8.6
Italy	2,020,700	9.1
Irish Republic	129,200	10.6
Luxembourg	1,806	1.1
Netherlands	427,200	8.2
West Germany	1,363,900	8.2

National figures do not always add up to those published by the EEC, because of different calculation methods.



Hello, I'm your comrade robot.

This is everyone's idea of the typical robot and it dominated the Russian Economic Achievement Exhibition in Moscow, incidentally disproving every one's idea of the typical Russian. Real Russians, it seems, do have a sense of fun because, of course, real robots do not look a bit like the humanoid above. Visitors also saw the real thing staged by the Russian All-Union Research Institute of Material Handling which is trying to convince Russians, who have the same reservations as Westerners, that robots are their friends. Professor Yegorovich Yarovitch, a leading Russian designer of robot encapsulated, the message thus: "We are approaching an age that will truly be dominated by man, when obedient robots will completely relieve the hands and brains of millions of people."

Lever calls for action on business investment

By Frances Williams

The Government must act to make an increase in investment, a central imperative of economic policy, Lord Lever, the former Labour Cabinet Minister, said last night. The alternative was to watch the country go into a cumulative decline compared with its industrial competitors.

The call was made by Lord Lever, delivering the 10th Rutherford Lecture of the Manchester Technology Association in London, before a distinguished audience representing industry, the City and the Civil Service.

Lord Lever drew attention to Britain's low level of investment by comparison with more successful nations such as Germany, Japan and France. As a result, British equipment was more antiquated, more dilapidated and more inadequate to cope with rapid industrial change.

He urged governments to make investment a protected area, and to ensure that any cuts fell more on spending rather than on investment.

The Government should do more to ensure that banks, which of all the financial institutions, lend most to finance new industrial investment—mobilize more of the nation's savings to lend to industry cheaply and on terms which suit industry's need.

Lord Lever suggested that the Government could subsidize funds which went into banks' investment accounts. The object would be to match the cost and terms of bank loans in countries such as France and Japan, where loans are made for a higher proportion of companies' assets and for much longer periods, thus easing industry's cash-flow problems.

Lord Lever said that neither of the great political parties offered any realistic proposals on the central question of investment. Some of the naive monetarist obsessions of the present Government, far from improving the situation, had made it worse.

Turning to public investment, Lord Lever called the record of all governments lamentable. He said the system for judging and controlling public investment decisions needed drastic overhaul.

Ductile Steels bid expected

By Simon Proctor

Ductile Steels, the troubled Midlands steel and engineering group, asked the Stock Exchange yesterday to suspend temporarily its shares quotation. A full-scale bid for the company is expected to be made soon.

At the suspension price of 97p, Ductile, which made a pre-tax loss of £2.2m in the six months to last June, was capitalised at about £12.6m. The directors said an offer might be made shortly for the company but declined to disclose the identity of the possible bidder.

Speculation mounted that it might be by Caparo, the industrial and engineering group headed by Mr Swraj Paul, which owns a 20 per cent stake in Ductile. Last Friday Caparo was believed to have added further shares to its 18 per cent interest.

However the suspension of the Ductile quotation came as a surprise to Caparo and it was suggested that Caparo might be reluctant to make a bid partly because of the immediate difficulty of raising the necessary funds and partly because it is still digesting the acquisition



Mr Paul: believed to have increased interest.

Metal Box dividend up despite profit fall

By Paul Maidment

Metal Box, Europe's largest packaging company and one of the world's biggest canners, yesterday reported a smaller-than-expected drop in profits at the half year stage for this year. Last year's results were the company's worst ever.

For the six months to September 30, pretax profits were £18.7m, down 6 per cent from £19.9m for the corresponding period a year earlier. Sales rose by 7.3 per cent to £584.3m for the half year.

The company is raising its half-time dividend to 7.2p gross from 6p a year earlier. Mr Dennis Allport, chairman, said this reflected the company's view of its prospects as well as the trading results. The shares rose 12p to 166p after the announcement.

Trading profit was £35.7m, up from £33.0m a year earlier with an increasing percentage coming from overseas: three-quarters against little more than two thirds a year earlier. Recession continued to hit sales and profits in Britain, particularly of soft drink and beer cans and central heating.

The company had begun to benefit from the rationalization that has taken place in the past 18 months when the workforce had been cut by 6,500.

Some 3,000 of the 7,000 workers in Metal Box's loss-making Open Top-Can division staged a one-day stoppage yesterday at 10 factories around the country, in support of a wage claim. Their union had asked for a 12 per cent increase plus £400.

All set for North Sea gas pipeline

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

An agreement on the construction of a gas gathering pipeline in the northern North Sea, to be built by the British National Oil Corporation and operated by BP, will be announced soon.

The proposed system, which will collect gas from three fields, was heralded in the Commons yesterday by Mr Hamish Gray, Minister for Energy, as a success for the Government's policy of encouraging private sector involvement in North Sea gas gathering.

Oil companies operating throughout the North Sea reactivated plans for several pipeline schemes after the Government's decision in September to abandon its controversial £2,700m gas gathering network. Mr Gray said the pipeline to be announced shortly was a "marvellous example" of the Government's encouragement to private industry.

The new pipeline, which has been under consideration for some time, will be a spur to the Far North Liquids and Associated Gas System (Flags) which is being developed by Shell and Esso and due to come into operation in the next six months. It will link the Brent and nearby fields to a terminal at St Fergus near Peterhead in Scotland.

BP, ENOC and Conoco, which operate the Magnus, Thistle and Murchison fields respectively, have now agreed with Shell and Esso that gas currently flared off at the three fields should be delivered through the Flags system from 1983.

Stock Markets

FT Index 517.8 down 2.4
FT Gilts 63.96 down 0.53
FT All Share 306.17 down 1.09
Bargains 18,015

Sterling

\$1.9045 up 55 pts
Index 90.7 up 0.2
New York: \$1.9033

Dollar

Index 106.3 down 0.3
DM 2.2472 down 78 pts

Gold

\$395.50 down \$7.50
New York: \$393.8

Money

3 mth sterling 1444-144
3 mth Euro \$ 124-124
6 mth Euro \$ 124-124

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Atlantic Resc	25p to 230p
Broken Hill	20p to 615p
Carless Capel	20p to 120p
Comm Union	20p to 120p
De La Rue	15p to 675p
Gas & Oil Ace	20p to 455p
Hamilton Gold	20p to 165p
Heron Smith	20p to 52p
Horizon Travel	8p to 268p
Magnet & S'mms	8p to 138p
Metal Box	12p to 166p
Paul & White	8p to 140p
Ranger Oil	20p to 450p
Saatchi	9p to 335p

Falls

French T.	8p to 88p
GEC	9p to 330p
Gen Acc	12p to 334p
Grosvet	12p to 395p
Kinross	17p to 579p
LWT	8p to 114p
Lives Ind	12p to 208p
Lyles S.	7p to 65p
Martin RP	12p to 308p
Morgan Cruc	8p to 109p
Reed & Colman	8p to 140p
Rio Tinto Zinc	10p to 44p
Royal Ind	11p to 355p
Sheff Trans	8p to 322p
Unilever	15p to 615p

Europe steel output up

October steel production in the European Community, excluding Greece, was up 1.7 per cent from September and 4.8 per cent from October 1980. This was the second month when steel production in the Community followed three months of declining production.

September crude steel output totalled 10.9 million metric tons, compared with 10.7 in September and 10.4 in October, 1980. New orders for September were up 33.5 per cent from September and 16 per cent from October 1980.

Brokers merge

Marsh McLennan International has joined with Sun Hung Kai Securities of Hong Kong to form Marsh McLennan-Sun Hung Kai.

Lloyds credit

Lloyds Bank International has extended a \$30m line of credit to Agromak, a subsidiary of Grupo Industrial Alfa, of Monterrey, the largest privately-owned industrial group in Mexico.

145 jobs lost

Cheshire Engineering, an ERF subsidiary at Winsford, Cheshire, is to close early next year, with the loss of 145 jobs. "Several options had been explored, including inquiries from other companies, but none has proved to be practicable," the company said.

The provisional total for the National Debt on March 31 was £12,780m. Mr Jack Bruce-Gardner, economic secretary to the treasury, said in a Commons answer.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Decision day for Hanson

Hanson Trust should today announce what course it plans to take on its £70m bid for Berec, the battery manufacturer, which is the subject of a £90m counter-offer from Tilling. Hanson can increase the offer, extend its closing date, or accept Tilling's bid and take a profit on the 20 per cent of Berec it already holds. Yesterday, Berec's shares rose 4p to 130p, but Hanson slipped 6p to 276p, suggesting that Hanson was uncharacteristically poised to increase its bid. Tilling shares rose 3p to 137p.

TUC to study paper launch

The TUC is to go ahead with its investigation into the feasibility of launching a national newspaper after all. The finance—nearly £27,000—has been raised from unions for the investigation, which is to be carried out by Lord McCarthy, the industrial relations expert, assisted by an advisory group.

Most members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade are adamant about sticking to the rules in settling disputes, Mr Gabriel O. Mariné, representing Argentina, said at the opening of the annual meeting of the 84-nation world trade body.

The British Institute of Management called on the Government yesterday to give more direct aid and encouragement to lift industry out of the recession. The "support industry" call was made at a meeting with Mr Patrick Jenkin, Industry Secretary.

Association of British Travel Agents begins four-day conference in Phoenix, Arizona. Opec seminar, Vienna.

Company results: Banks Hovis McDougall (final); Barker and Dobson, Hambros, and C E Heath (half-yearly).

TODAY

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, chairs a National Economic Development Office conference on a quality and competitiveness Barbican Conference Centre, London. Discussions between officials of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and the Japan Automobile Manufacturers' Association, London. EEC policy for the electronics industry to be discussed at a

Barclays in New Zealand deal

Barclays Bank International said yesterday it had raised its equity stake in New Zealand United, the merchant bank. It raised its stake to 49.7 per cent from 24.9 per cent by purchasing Bank of America's 24.8 per cent holding in New Zealand United. Financial details were not immediately available.

Canada review

The performance of large companies in Canada, including those from overseas, will be reviewed periodically to ensure that the private sector is promoting the country's economic development. Mr Herb Gray, Industry Minister, said.

Soviet gas

Gas exports to Europe will eventually equal the Soviet Union's about \$10,000m (£5,260m) a year, according to the head of Ruhrgas who signed an agreement on Friday for gas supplies to be piped to West Germany from Siberia.

Help for NCC

Waltons Bond, of Australia, an associate company of Bond Corporation Holdings, has agreed to purchase 1,326,100 Simplicity shares from Icaban and Co Inc and its associates with a view to unconditionally supporting NCC Energy in its endeavours to achieve a "business combination" with Simplicity. The share purchase represents a 13.3 per cent holding.

BIS Software of London has won a £250,000 contract to supply Postipankki, the Finnish bank, with software to computerise its international operations.

1981

SMITHS INDUSTRIES

- Improved results in difficult trading conditions.
- Wide industry and geographical spread again proves beneficial.
- Nearly 40% of profits came from overseas operations.
- Strong performance by Aerospace and Medical businesses in UK and North America.
- Balance sheet remains strong.
- Dividend increased.

	1980	1981
Sales	£319.8m	£367.6m
Trading Profit	£30.1m	£30.8m
Profit before Tax	£26.1m	£26.3m
Current Cost: Earnings per Share	13.4p	17.8p
Dividend per Share	10.0p	10.5p

Copies of the Report and Accounts and the Special Report 1981 are available from:
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Think modern, Heseltine tells Midlands

By Clifford Webb, Midlands Industrial Correspondent

Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for the Environment, was subjected to aggressive questioning yesterday when he visited a meeting of West Midlands industrialists to build modern factories in the middle of the worst recession in their lifetime.

He told a Wolverhampton conference on "Construction for Industrial Recovery" that the industry should try to avoid the mistake it made in the early 1970s when it failed to invest during a recession and was unable to take advantage of the recovery.

When it finally took action it was 18 months too late because of the leads and lags in construction and equipment work.

One listener protested he had done exactly what Mr Heseltine was now recommending. He had built two new factories in the past 15 years. The last only four years ago. Now he was struggling to make ends meet. His bank had halved its valuation of the new factory but the rateable valuation remained the same, adding to his burden at a time of increasing local authority rate demands.

What was needed, he said, was an urgent revaluation of industrial property throughout the country.

Another listener said that in his experience it would be 1990 before some planning appeals were heard. A plan to build a factory which would provide work for another 200 people had been held up for two years.

Mr Heseltine, who once gave his telephone number to a London gathering of 1,000 businessmen to show his determination to "cut



Mr Heseltine: faced tough questions

through planning red tape" said he would investigate all the cases raised.

The Government was encouraging investment by increasing building allowances. "Too much manufacturing industry is housed in antiquated or otherwise unsuitable premises leading to increased operating costs, poor productivity and inefficient production, storage and dispatch arrangements. Industrialists should pay the same attention to the need to improve and replace buildings as to the need to replace out-of-date plant and machinery."

"Let's have that 'phone number again" called some clearly disenchanted listeners. Mr Heseltine's reply appeared to contain some numbers but was much too hurried and quietly spoken for most to hear.

Airline to face new battle of Atlantic

From Derek Harris, Phoenix, Nov 23

Trans World Airlines, the biggest carrier across the North Atlantic, is taking on British Airways in a new battle for the British package-holiday market to the United States.

In a link with the tour operator Travellers International, it hopes to sell 60,000 holidays to Britons next year, attacking the market in which a British Airways deal this year netted 50,000 holidays for Jetset, part of Lloyds Bank's Associated Communications Corporation.

The announcement, a new twist in the battle for the slackening transatlantic package-holiday trade, came as 2,600 delegates assembled at Phoenix, Arizona, for tomorrow's annual convention of the Association of British Travel Agents.

TWA admits that the British Airways deal with Jetset won 23 per cent of the 270,000 package holidays sold in the year by Britons in North America.

Although the transatlantic market has grown just over 12 per cent this year, most tour operators expect the package-tour trade to the United States to show no growth next year at best. American Holidays, based in Wembley, Middlesex, which claims to be Europe's leading independent tour operator to the United States, says its early bookings for next summer are up by a quarter on the same time last year but this may be because it is taking a larger market share.

With the British Airways deal, Jetset was able to offer various inducements to travellers. Now TWA will be doing the same thing with promises of free stereo headsets, Gucci flight bags and other fringe benefits.

The international airlines stand to lose £50m this year but TWA claims it is still profitable on the North Atlantic routes. However Mr Brian Kennedy, TWA's New York-based vice president of marketing, said that developing the volume market offered by package holidays was important for TWA. Travellers International will be distributing a million brochures, mainly to travel agents, in the TWA promotion.

The North Atlantic carriers meet next month to try to agree fare increases to



Mr Elms: opening door to cheap tickets

staunch their increased losses. Most of the operators need greater increases, but travel expectations are that at most transatlantic fares will go up next year by 10 to 15 per cent.

This optimism was shared by Mr Ivor Elms, the association president, who said there had been much hypocrisy by the airlines, but more by government over the issue. He added: "We are not going to get access to everything in the way of these discounted tickets but if we can get the agreement we are looking for it will at last open the door."

Mr Elms said if cheap tickets were sold through association agents travellers would benefit not only from their cheaper fares but also the associations' consumer protection code, something cheap tickets at the High Street travel agent would also help consumers to go to the ticket shops, or not knowing where they are, and bring extra business to the High Street agents.

The association is to set up its own training scheme now that Government intends to phase out the Air Transport and Travel Industry Training Board. Members will be expected to foot the administrative bill of possibly £200,000.

US insurers chase the women

From Robert O'Connor, Baltimore, Nov 23

With more women either pursuing careers or trying to help pay the domestic bills, American life insurance companies are discovering a huge market waiting to be exploited.

In the forefront is New York's Metropolitan Life Insurance, the third largest life insurance company in the United States, which earlier this year ran an advertisement in national magazines aggressively pitched towards two-income families — with the wife as the main target.

The advertisement showed a woman pensively combing her hair and wondering what would happen to "Michael" if something happened to her. She reassures herself with a thought: "Today I increased my life insurance coverage. I did it for him."

In the background, reflected through her dressing table mirror, is a very small Michael, looking vulnerable but unafraid. He seems to have no idea what a terrifying place the world is. Nor does he know what his wife has done to neutralize the dangers he faces.

"We think it's going to be a tremendous market," says Mr Ralph Casale, a Metropolitan marketing executive, from his New York office. "Traditionally," he adds, "insurance companies would talk to the so-called head of the household, the breadwinner. But, as more women seek work, the distinction between provider and dependent has often ceased to apply. If a woman is working and she's married," says Mr Casale, "her income is vital to the family income."

A husband with a wife in a high-paying job may not realize that a foundation change has taken place in the marital relationship, but insurance companies, with



The Metropolitan advertisement aimed at two-income families

their charts and tables, know just how much is at stake. Last year, \$371,000m worth (about £261,600m) of individual life insurance policies were sold in the United States. Group policies — such as those provided by companies for their employees — brought the total to \$544,000m.

The value of policies sold to women increased in value by 235 per cent between 1970 and 1980; this compares with a rise of 150 per cent for policies sold to men over the

same period. Last year females bought 24 per cent of all individual life insurance. In 1970 they bought 14 per cent of the total.

Michele Abruzzo, a spokeswoman for the New York Life Insurance Company, says that an influx of women into the insurance field has helped to increase sales to women. About 12 per cent of New York Life's agents are women, which is "at least double" the figure of a decade ago.

"So we are serious, and we are going to continue to work at the same time we are having families; and we are going to protect what we're working for. And that is why this market is just exploding."

Beth Dana, a 30-year-old Metropolitan agent who works in Baltimore, Maryland, says that a female agent has an advantage with a woman customer. A woman, she argues, is inclined to trust another woman.

"I find in a lot of situations women handle the money. And, if they handle the money, they make the decisions."

Younger men, she says, are more inclined than their middle-aged counterparts to acknowledge dependence on their wives' incomes. This involves more than just sensitivity. Working women who are over 45, Mrs Dana says, tend to earn less than their husbands, while younger women are often making more than their husbands.

Metropolitan specializes in a middle-income clientele. The two-income family that Mrs Dana deals with is earning at least \$30,000 a year and would be expected to be interested in a \$25,000 policy, up from the traditional \$10,000 figure.

In brief \$20,000m needed for China oil exploration

Investment totalling \$20,000m (£10,511m) would be needed to finance China's offshore oil exploration and production between now and 1990, Mr Michael Sandberg, chairman of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, said yesterday.

Addressing an oil conference called Offshore China '81 in Canton, he said that the results of discussions between China and outside interests on production-sharing agreements, level of taxation and contract law were eagerly awaited.

China is expected to call for bids from foreign oil companies early next year to exploit its offshore oil resources in the South China Sea and the Southern Yellow Sea.

Drilling resumes
Work has been resumed on 10 oil drilling rigs operated by the Norwegian subsidiary of Mobil Corp in the North Sea after a three-day payment system, a spokesman for the rig owners, Norwegian Offshore Association, said. The association announced it would not dismiss any strikers.

EEC inquiry
The EEC Commission has started proceedings against Belgium and West Germany for allegedly illicit use of state aids, which were paid to regions in the two countries.

French boost
France expects to grant more than 20 oil exploration permits this year, compared with 9 in 1980 and 5 in 1979, Mr Pierre Dreyfus, Industry Minister, said in Paris.

Norwich venture
A £500,000 business venture was launched in Norwich yesterday with the opening of Coe Photo Shops, the first of eight planned for East Anglia. It will create 60 new jobs.

350-barrel flow
The Cooper Basin exploration well Jackson One has started producing about 350 barrels of oil a day, Delhi Petroleum said in Adelaide.

Ford cutback
Ford of France said yesterday that the workforce at its Charleville-Mezieres plant in northern France will have to be trimmed because of the parent American company's decision to freeze investments for 1982 because of heavy losses.

Opec seminar
About 500 delegates including 40 ministers are attending a three-day Opec seminar starting today in Vienna. Organized by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, it will discuss and evolve an energy and development strategy.

Danish prices rise
Danish wholesale prices rose 0.3 per cent in October from September and were 14.6 per cent higher than in October 1980.

Australian strike
About 400,000 Australian metal workers started a 48-hour strike yesterday in support of a pay claim by Amalgamated Metal Workers and Shipwrights Union spokesman said in Sydney.

More new cars
New car registrations in Norway were up to 9,552 in October from 8,570 in October 1980, but were down from 9,943 in October 1979.

Enterprise plea
The president of the International Chamber of Commerce Mr Mohamed Aly Rangoonwala of Pakistan, yesterday called for curbs on government powers and more room for private enterprise to generate economic recovery. He was addressing the opening session of a four-day ICC congress in Manila.

Zaire contract
A contract formally establishing the Alzavac consortium to conduct a feasibility study and eventually build an aluminium plant in Zaire was being signed in Kinshasa yesterday. The project is expected to cost \$1,000m (£525m).

S Africa prices up
South Africa's consumer price index rose 213.4 in October, 14.5 per cent higher than in October 1980 (1975 equals 100).

Building decline forecast

By Baron Phillips

Output in Britain's construction industry could fall by 13 per cent this year, according to the 5 per cent decline in 1980, the National Council of Building Material Producers forecast in a report published today.

The BMP forecasting panel predicts a further drop in output of around 3 per cent in 1982, although this trend is expected to be reversed in 1983 with a rise of 4 per cent.

Mr Nigel Chaldecott, BMP director general, said: "I wish we could be more optimistic but the decline in the consumer sector is hitting repair and maintenance work as well as new house-building."

"We do not agree with the Prime Minister that there are any positive signs that the construction industry will lead the economy into recovery before 1983. The only sector showing real buoyancy is private commercial building."

Most of the decline this year and the forecasted decline next year is attributable to the collapse of public sector construction. This year is expected to see a 35 per cent slump in public sector housing output and a 13 per cent fall in public non-housing work.

The forecasting panel believes there will be about 115,000 private housing starts this year.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	15 %
Barclays	15 %
BCCI	15 %
Consolidated Crds	15.5 %
C. Hoare & Co	15 %
Lloyds Bank	15 %
Midland Bank	15 %
Nat Westminster	15 %
TSB	15 %
Williams and Glyn's	15 %

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 15% up to £50,000 14% 15% over

Hongkong stock market plea

By Paul Maidment

Hong Kong's stock market must develop its international credibility and that starts with self-regulation, Mr Robert Fell said yesterday in his first speech in the colony since starting his secondment from the London Stock Exchange to the Hongkong Government as commissioner of securities.

However, the question of market regulation in Hong Kong had to be approached with due care, he said. While there must be apparently no market, any system had to be in the end workable in the Hong Kong context.

Mr Fell was addressing a property forum in the colony, where 80 per cent of stock market trading is in property-related shares.

Mr Fell said that self-regulation was an enlightened self-interest as no one operating in a market could tolerate a false or rigged market in his own long-term interest. His own predictions were strongly based on a market economy operating as freely as possible. But, he said, there were times when the authorities had to step in, and at such a time, he would readily do so.

Since the end of last year, the Hong Kong Government has been moving to exert greater regulation over the local financial markets following the adverse international publicity caused by the corporate battles between the local Chinese and British business communities, which have discredited the colony's voluntary takeovers code.

Mr Fell noted that strengthening its office was an immediate task for the commission, as was the unification of the colony's four stock exchanges. He described the development of the unified exchange as one of the foundation stones of the work of the commission.

Mr Fell's six-month secondment is intended to provide a link for the Hong Kong Government to find a permanent successor to Mr Ursel McInnes, who resigned suddenly during the summer for personal reasons. Mr McInnes had been unpopular among the local business community and had, until recently, lacked the full support of other senior members of the Hongkong Government.

More car jobs to go, report says

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Job losses will continue throughout the European car industry over the next five years despite a predicted boom in sales which could begin as early as the first quarter of next year.

A report on the world car industry from Data Resources International, formerly Economic Models, says that even in periods of growth the expected production volumes of each of the leading European manufacturers inevitably will remain below two million cars a year.

"The consequence will be that the industry will continue to make losses until 1983 at the earliest," the report says. It expects that Ford will do better financially this year than last and the Peugeot group's results will be similar. But for the three United Kingdom-based companies of BL, Vauxhall and Talbot, 1981 is forecast to be far worse than 1980.

It adds: "The response of the industry to the continuing financial crisis will be to continue to cut employment. In the United Kingdom, BL has cut at least 22,000 jobs in 1981, Vauxhall 5,000 and Talbot 8,000. Without doubt, employment in the European industry will continue to fall, despite any recovery in car production."

Manufacturers will make further cost reductions, by making new collaboration deals for the production of components, joint vehicles and distribution networks.

New car registrations throughout the world are forecast to grow from 27.85 million this year to 33.4 million in 1986. The total car production of 15 leading countries should rise from 9.57 million this year to 10.97 million with United Kingdom car sales rising from an expected 1,440,000 this year to 1,670,000 in 1986.

European car production is forecast to increase from 9.85 million to 11.24 million by 1986 with the United Kingdom showing only a marginal rise (excluding

NEW CAR REGISTRATIONS

	1980	1981	1986*
United Kingdom	1,51	1,44	1,67
France	1,67	1,68	1,87
West Germany	2,43	2,31	2,65
Italy	1,72	1,67	1,69
Spain	0,63	0,67	0,77
Western Europe	9,97	9,57	10,97
United States	6,7	6,68	10,43
Latin America	1,64	1,23	1,77
Japan	2,85	2,74	3,16
World	27,97	27,85	33,4

* Forecast

Western Europe includes 15 leading countries

Latin America means Mexico, Brazil and Argentina

25,000 jobs plan for Scotland

The impact of the Scottish Development Agency's programme for the next three years will be to create at least 25,000 new jobs, plus finance to help to safeguard more than 8,000 existing jobs, Mr Robin Duthie, its chairman, said in Glasgow yesterday.

He added that £100m a year will be spent over three years to help build up development. He said: "This enterprise is now increasingly important to the Scottish economy."

Mr Duthie who was introducing the agency's annual report, stressed that the agency was increasingly geared to develop Scotland's technology base and support for developing the latest technologies would be given high priority.

Investment will focus on the growth sectors of electronics, health care, industrial biotechnology and advanced production engineering. Mr Duthie said: "One of the agency's new thrusts will be to encourage universities and technical colleges to promote research and development orientated towards industry."

"This is underlined by our support for the West of Scotland Science Park in Glasgow, the Riccarton Research Park in the East of Scotland, and Inverclyde, the microelectronics applications company run jointly by Edinburgh and Heriot Watt Universities."

The agency is to set up a subsidiary to advise on industrial, investment and special financial negotiations as one of a series of organizational changes being introduced by Dr George Mathewson, who joined the agency as chief executive nine months ago. A key move among the changes is the creation of a department to coordinate work in areas with particular industrial problems, or opportunities.

Dr Mathewson said plans to set up the investment subsidiary were well advanced, added: "By involving independent expertise, the agency will be ensuring that its resources are strengthened and widened. Ultimate decision-making will rest with the agency, which will still be willing to take on high-risk ventures."

More financial and advisory services are being made available to small businesses, particularly to encourage entrepreneurs. Dr Mathewson gave as an example of the agency's commitment to small company growth, particularly in new technologies, the linking of electronic development and small business responsibilities under Mr Peter Carmichael, former managing director of Hewlett-Packard.

Brains nearly beat beauty as Miss World fails

By Eileen Allen

Miss World, once a sure leader in television ratings, could only make second position in the ITV Top Ten for the week ending November 15.

Advertising agencies and the television industry, who now analyse programme popularity from statistics prepared by the Broadcasters Audience Research Board (B.A.R.B.), were out yesterday to find a previous crowd-puller failing to measure up to expectation.

Mastermind, which does for brains what Miss World does for beauty, got within a hair's breadth of the highest publicised glamour pageant, commanding an average audience of 14,200,000 viewers against Miss World's 14,820,000.

ITV's mistake was to hope Miss World would attract a large audience for the whole of its 90 minutes.

Viewers stayed away in droves for the preliminary national costume episode and there was a big switch-over only in the crucial last half-hour. This seems to have knocked the usually strong support of the evening out of the charts altogether.

ITV had another ratings disappointment when the trumpeted debut of Noel Gordon's departure, failed to attract more viewers than either the revived BBC 1 serial Tenko, or the same week's Terence Longley's The Penelope Keith in To the Manor Born, which was again first in BBC 1's Top Ten.

CHINA'S BUDGET DEFICIT

Peking, Nov 23 — China may have a budget deficit this year of between 1,000m yuan (£305m) and 2,000m yuan but will basically balance the books.

For the year China ran a budget deficit of 12,700m yuan and the previous year it went even further into the red.

A senior official said a small deficit would be considered "quite normal". China had been successful in reducing the money supply this year, and prices overall had stabilised.

Years of high inflation fuelled by the growth of foreign production, a wide variety of new bonus systems in factories and an expansion of local enterprises had been proved to be unfounded.

Urban inflation last year is officially said to have been 6 per cent, though some foreign economists say it was much higher. — Reuters.

Business Appointments

Davies is new Imperial Group secretary

Mr P. M. Davies, chairman of the paper board and plastics division of Imperial Group, is to be director of administration and group secretary from December 1. Because of the integration of Howard Johnson his position as director of group development is discontinued. Mr J. D. Smith, the present group secretary, becomes manager, group head office.

Mr K. P. Einfield has been appointed deputy chairman of International Commercial Bank.

Mr John Little, managing director of Lloyds & Scottish, has been appointed a member of the Council for the Industrial Society.

Sir John Spencer Wills will be retiring from the chairmanship of the British Electric Traction Company in June next year and will remain a whole-time executive. Mr Nicholas K. S. Wills will become managing director in place of Mr Dundas.

Mr David Wares has been made managing director of the merchants division of URM Group PLC from December 1. He succeeds Mr John Miller who remains a director of Norton & Wright Group. Mr David H. Exall and Mr Albert E. Norton have resigned from the company.

Mr Michael K. Bewes, manager of Guardian Royal Exchange's corporate affairs and personnel development, has been named an assistant general manager. In addition to his previous duties, he will also be responsible for the group's corporate planning.

Mr John Le Pla, commercial director of Van den Berghs & Jurgens, is to take up the new combined post of chairman of Unilever's international specialities division and managing director of Lodgers & Nucleoline in the early part of next year.

Mr R. H. E. Kerle, Mr D. T. Carr and Mr T. H. Mason are to join the board of Hoversham Group.

Mr Geoff Sewell, joint managing director of CPS Leasing, has been elected president of the executive committee of the European Computer Leasing and Trading Association.

Sir Campbell Adamson has been appointed deputy chairman of Renold.

Mr Arthur Jerwood has been elected chairman of Merck Sharp & Dohme (Holdings).

Mr C. J. L. Rathbone has been appointed to the board of Bath and Portland Group.

Mr Colin Plumb has been made managing director of UK operations — of Carpets International.

J. R. EWING SILVER

The Continental Mint, producers of the J. R. Ewing Silver Piece (licensed by Loximor Productions) is seeking importers and distributors in the United Kingdom. L. G. "Mr Dillan" Moaley will be of the Kensington Hilton hotel November 25 and 26 to discuss possible business arrangements with qualified firms. Please telephone Mr. Moaley to arrange an appointment to discuss your participation in marketing this Pure Silver Piece commemorating the most recognized character in the history of television.

If you are interested but unable to meet with Mr. Moaley at this time please contact him at The Continental Mint, 9400 N. Central Expressway, Suite 408, Dallas, Texas 75241, USA.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Ahead of the report on the Royal Bank

Although relegated to the sidelines last week as the politics surrounding the bids for Royal Bank of Scotland widened and deepened, it should not be forgotten that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is after all the final arbiter on the matter. However strong the passions and conflict inside the Bank of England and Whitehall, there is no precedent for the Secretary of State for Trade refusing to abide by the Commission's final recommendations.

So what line might the Commission take? The Bank and part of the Treasury at least, would doubtless welcome a report much like that published in September on Enserch Corporation's bid for Davy International. That bid was not allowed on three grounds. First, that Davy would lose its national (read Scottish) character with detrimental effects on employment. Second, that the management

first half came from there, £29.9m in all, of which £11m came from South Africa. Expansion in the United States is also encouraging. But the cost of doing disproportionately well abroad is higher tax charges, up to £11.4m for the six months against £6.8m a year earlier. The result, after extraordinary items, is that the loss at the attributable level increased to £1.7m from £0.3m a year earlier.

Nevertheless, the dividend has been raised, which may prove a questionable policy, especially if, with gearing around 60 per cent, Metal Box needs to find funds in the future to finance further expansion and diversification overseas to offset its difficulties at home.

Associated Leisure Profits invaded

Associated Leisure has spent millions on fruit machines and space invaders (it has 27,000 on rental) but recently it is the customers who have scooped the jackpot. Pretax profits are down from £3.24m to £2.34m in the half year to mid-September, and this comes after a fall from £5.3m to £4.6m in the year to last March. It could be that the group has had a run of bad luck. In 1979-80, brewers, smarting from doubled VAT, held down rents. In the year to last March a video boom meant a stiff increase in depreciation, and lately recession has emptied punters' pockets. People have also become more adept at playing games, and over a year or so the average machine "take" has halved.

But Associated thinks its luck is turning. The latest pretax profits fall cloaks a near £1m swing into loss from profit in video games. Many machines are being called in and depreciation continues to be brutal, but the worst here should now be over. By contrast, fruit machine profits actually went ahead and the interests in hotels and entertainments maintained their profits despite the recession and a poor early summer. The hope now is of second half profits only slightly smaller than in the first, or a lot more than the £1.4m earned in the second half of the year to last March.

So the group could finish this year with profits of £4.3m against 1980-81's £4.6m — but run smack into the Chancellor who is studying ways of raising more money from fruit machines. Three-quarters of group profits stem from them. The shares slipped 2p to 85p yesterday. The year's high was 149p.

Avana

Robertson proves its worth

Half-time figures from Avana Group yesterday are above market forecasts and come just as Dr John Randall has taken up the chair and speculation over a bid from Northern Foods with its 20.5 per cent stake has quietened down. Takeover rumours have long been vigorously denied by both parties and, with Avana capitalized at £76m, even the City is now less convinced that aid is about to be launched despite Northern's recent rights issue.

Meanwhile, with Robertson's Foods now firmly under its wing Avana has managed nearly to double pretax profits to £3.6m. Ex-Robertson, profits on the existing business were probably slightly down on last time's £2m, due to tough trading in the meat division and the fall in sterling and rise in raw material costs which eroded fruit juice margins. Refusing to chase market share at unrealistic margins, Avana is nevertheless looking to organic growth with new products.

Robertson's itself showed a good improvement on the £1m made in the same period last year. Moreover, there is still plenty of scope to sharpen up under-employed assets at the jam-makers and for the full year Robertson's could make over £3m putting Avana on course for £9.5m before deducting employees' profits share. Robertson's brought with it net debt of about £8.5m, which matched Avana's cash balances, and capital spending has continued at a high level.

Dr Jerry Nims, whose company, Nimslo, hopes to be the world's first manufacturer of 3-D photography equipment explained yesterday why he had sold his personal interest in the company.

The company is still four months away from commercial production of the camera and has already raised more than £26m, chiefly from British investors. The British Government has also promised £2.7m in grants, payable once employment and production targets are met at the plant in Scotland where the camera is being made.

Nimslo has called on the London capital market with increasing frequency since 1978 to cater for repeated restructuring of the group.

Three-dimensional photography is a concept that the uninformed find hard to grasp. The world's biggest photographic companies have found it equally hard to realize commercially.

Dr Nims, a 46-year-old Baptist from Atlanta, Georgia, and his Chinese associate Mr Allen Lo, 43, have given their names to the company and face the challenge of bringing 20 years work to fruition to erase the memory of many expensive and unproductive years of research. They promise to do so in March next year when their camera, manufactured in Dundee, Scotland, will be launched on to the mass market in the United States at a price of \$199 (£105). By 1985, according to Dr Nims, they will have cornered at least 4 per cent of the world photographic market — possibly twice as much — and 3D will be recognized as an invention to rival that of the colour print.

Since raising \$3m of risk capital in the United States in the 1970s, all the money for the "development" of the Nimslo camera has come from this side of the Atlantic. Mostly from British institutional and private investors.

Dr Nims says the reasons for coming to London to raise money were entirely practical. Three years ago when he was running his research-based operation from the proverbial strait with a staff of under a dozen, he came to England to sound out various people in the photographic industry about how he should develop his invention.

One of these was Mr Graham Dowson, the ex-Rank chief ousted in a bloody boardroom battle in the 1970s and well-versed in photographic technology through the Rank Xerox company. Mr Dowson introduced him to the City.

More especially he introduced him to Mr Sandy Gilmour, now senior partner of stockbrokers Carr, Seabag, who was so impressed with the camera's potential that he persuaded Dr Nims not to go to Switzerland to raise money as he had intended but to use London as the base of his capital needs.

Nimslo's cash requirements have mushroomed over the last three years as it has moved from the development phase to the production phase.

In 1978 Carr, Seabag persuaded a group of London investors, including the National Coal Board Pension Fund and the M & G unit trust group to put up £3m.

In May 1980, as the group grew more confident it was on target for production, a new company, Nimslo European Holdings, with rights to around a third of Nimslo's world rights was formed which took over the interests of the original outside shareholders. NEH raised £7.14m through shares and loan stock which was placed by Carr, Seabag with a range of essentially British institutional investors.

In October 1981 Nimslo announced plans to raise a further £30.3m after expenses through the issue of 7.5 million shares at \$4.25 each. At the same time, there was another restructuring of the group which left the previous NEH shareholders with

The £26m dreams and 3D delays of Dr Nims' new camera

In an exclusive interview with The Times, the inventor of a revolutionary 3D camera discusses his personal financial involvement. Rupert Morris and Ronald Pullen report.

Dr Jerry C. Nims, chairman of Nimslo International with his 3D camera.



19.4 per cent of another new company Nimslo International, the balance being held by Nimslo Technology, controlled mainly by Fred Olsen and Dr Nims's charitable foundation.

In all, then, British investors have put some £26m into Nimslo and the company calculates that it will need a similar amount to finance increased production, processing and distribution centres and the all-important Far Eastern launch.

Both Dr Nims and Baring Brothers, his financial advisers, were at pains at a press conference yesterday to stress that each move was in fact a simplification of the group structure.

But the overall effect of all this has been to dilute the shareholdings of outside investors in what is promised eventually to be a larger pie. They point out that the new structure is designed to provide all shareholders with an identical interest in a single company as well as facilitate further fund-raising moves in the international market.

Nimslo will also be getting a rather more prominent public face from the end of this month when its shares will be traded on the unlisted securities market, a recently introduced category on the Stock Exchange for companies without the track record to justify a full stock exchange listing.

Previously Nimslo shares had been traded on the stock market by "special arrangement" only, under which the price has gone like a "scalded cat" in Dr Nims's words from £3.40 in June 1980 to £18 a year later since when they have been suspended awaiting this latest restructuring.

What has been worrying many people, however, is that Nimslo has declined to identify the ultimate shareholders in the company. Asked whether this limited disclosure would have prevented raising money in the United States, where the Securities and Exchange Commission has very strict rules governing companies seeking to raise money from the public, Dr Nims said that the "confusion" of an American listing had not arisen.

At the exciting stage in the company's development, Dr Nims has therefore reduced his status to one of simply a salaried employee. Apart from holding one share in Nimslo International, a statutory requirement for a com-

pany director, Dr Nims has no other beneficial interest, his only other direct interest is through the board of management of a charitable foundation which along with Fred Olsen is one of the major shareholders in Nimslo Technology. But neither Dr Nims nor any of the other NT shareholders will discuss their stakes further.

The balance sheet dated March 31, 1981 in the prospectus for the share issue, shows that shareholders' funds amount to \$65m (£34m) against an estimated market value based on the value the shares commanded before they were suspended of more than \$450m (£245m).

Out of this figure for shareholders' funds, \$30m comes from the recently announced cash-raising move and the bulk of the rest — \$21.5m — comes under the banner of technical information and designs, in effect the value Dr Nims and his directors have put on the work it has already done on the development of the camera.

So far as the financial figures are concerned, eager investors have been putting a value on the company which presupposes the achievement of some very ambitious marketing goals which the company itself admits are subject to any number of variables. Dr Nims himself argues that the company is in superb financial shape, with everything including the tools and the dies for manufacturing paid for and cash in the bank for future expansion.

Nimslo's link with Fred Olsen dates back to May 1979 when, after raising the first £3m, Dr Nims and his colleagues were looking for a company to manufacture the camera.

After doing a provisional deal with a Japanese firm, Nimslo withdrew from that to strike a fresh bargain with Times, a Fred Olsen subsidiary, best-known for its watches, but also the manufacturer of 40 million Polaroid cameras between 1952 and 1979, 16 million of them at its Dundee plant.

What brought Nimslo and Times suddenly together in 1979 was Polaroid's decision to close its own cameras, and therefore to end its contract with Times. Times could now offer Nimslo massive spare capacity and considerable expertise.

My goal, during the summer, is to build the Eastman Kodak of the next 10 years, said Dr Nims yesterday. That's my dream, that's my vision, that's what I'm about.

The launch last March in London, with official and States amateur photographers, a \$199 camera not greatly different from a conventional single-lens 2D

camera, and using a conventional 35mm film, either normal (100 ASA) or fast (400 ASA), to produce 3D prints.

The one obviously unusual feature of the Nimslo camera is that it has four lenses, looking like four identical portholes ranged horizontally.

It weighs 12 ounces, is a similar size to an Instamatic or many other popular cameras, and is operated in exactly the same way: you look through a viewfinder, press a button, and wind the film on; focussing is automatic.

At each press of the button, the four lenses photograph four half-frames of the negatives in the film — so that a 36-frame film will

action camera suitable for mass-production for the amateur market.

Since then, far from accepting the limitations of the 3D process, Nimslo have consistently revised upwards their estimate of likely market share, and still talk in terms of a photographic revolution on a par with the invention of the colour print.

Since 1978 the American marketing consultancy firm of Booz, Allen and Hamilton have been testing potential demand, mainly in the United States, and as the product has improved in quality, they have gradually raised their sights.

Latest projections by Booz, Allen and Hamilton indicate that at the present scheduled camera price of \$199 Nimslo will immediately be able to achieve a 7.8 per cent share of the United States amateur photographic market, and the introduction of a second model in 1983, selling much more cheaply at \$99, will boost market share to 27 per cent.

In the first quarter of 1983 the new model is to be introduced in Europe, probably with a launch in Switzerland or Germany. In the fourth quarter of 1983 it will be launched in Japan, where it is expected to achieve 40 per cent market share.

The 1983 Nimslo will have a plastic case — the present prototype has a metal one — and will be available with automatic film advance, built-in flash and other sophisticated features.

The company is also planning to introduce a portrait camera in 1983, which is expected to win 30 per cent of a \$2,900m market in America. Professional portrait photography of groups or individuals on formal occasions, is an insignificant industry in Britain, but is worth \$10,000m annually in the United States, according to Carr Seabag.

From an original target date of 1979, the Nimslo launch has been repeatedly postponed as its estimates of potential revenues have risen.

In 1980 the potential American market share was assessed at 4.5 per cent for the first generation camera. Nimslo now reckon on being able to achieve 7.8 per cent market share with the same camera.

According to the 1980 projections, sales were envisaged that would yield \$44m in revenue in 1981, building up to \$88m in revenue in 1985, with pretax profits of \$98m.

This year's revised projections, based on the March 1982 launch date, are for \$59m in revenue in 1982, climbing towards \$735m in 1985, with the massive pretax profit figure of \$156m.

The projections are at constant values and constant exchange rates, assuming that inflation will cause corresponding increases in prices and costs.



Lord Barber, chairman of Standard Chartered, waiting on the sidelines

chain would lengthen. And third, that certain United States legislation, such as the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, would make Davy's life difficult, especially in the Middle East.

Certainly, parallels can legitimately be drawn between Davy/Enserch and the Royal Bank. The Scottish element, overlooked recently, is important even though parent banks have tended to draw their world-wide activities closer together rather than grant autonomy, especially after the embarrassment over Barclays' South African subsidiary purchasing Defence Bonds.

But at the very core of the issues being examined by the Monopolies Commission is a question which is not properly the Commission's business. That is to what extent the Bank of England should continue to supervise the United Kingdom banking system and the issue of whether fresh legislation is required to enable it to do so.

Given the political pressures upon it, it would be no surprise if the report was hedged around with all kinds of conditions. Qualified approval of both bids with conditions (some relating to tightened-up supervisory methods) might not please the Bank. But it would enable it to slide off the hook with prestige intact.

Metal Box UK problems continue

Last year was the worst ever in Metal Box's history. Yesterday's half-time results for this year show some signs of improvement, especially on the previous six months but as Mr Dennis Allport, the chairman and chief executive, candidly admits, it is still "far from roses all the way". The thorny problems continue to be the United Kingdom markets for beer and soft drink cans, and for central heating radiators. Drink can prices have been squeezed by 10 per cent in real terms over the past 18 months and the open top division, which makes the cans, made a loss in the first half.

Overcapacity remains a bug-bear and is likely to remain so for some time. For the industry as a whole, there is about 25 per cent of spare capacity. Metal Box has been cutting back for the past eighteen months but the latest figures still include a further £5.4m provision for redundancies and reorganization.

Overseas smells sweeter. Three-quarters of the trading profit in the

Business Diary: John Brown's body goes marching on

The pawnbroking business appears to be on the up and up, according to John Brown, general secretary of the National Pawnbrokers' Association.

Brown, a former pawnbroker, tells me he is receiving more inquiries at his Southend office, mostly from jewellers and antique dealers, who are thinking of taking up pawnbroking as a sideline.

Says Brown: "I think, myself, that jewellers are getting clients coming in and wanting to sell an item, a family heirloom perhaps, and

in the course of the conversation, they say 'I didn't want to sell it, I wanted to loan'."

The jeweller says: "I'm sorry, I don't do loans", and after the client has gone from the shop, the jeweller says "Why not?"

The inquiries are coming not only from the high-pressure Northwest, particularly Liverpool and Manchester, but from the commuter and retirement-home areas of Kent and the Sussex coast, Brown adds.

It is the middle rather than the working-class class turning to the pawnbroker, apparently. The reason is not so much hardship as the fact that borrowing from the banks is now so expensive or long-winded that the greater convenience of the pawnbroker is outweighing old notions of "respectability."

For loans of more than £50, the interest works out about 21 per cent, little more than the banks. Long-standing legal limits on interest rates are to be removed. Though Harvey & Thompson, the association's biggest member, has recently opened a new shop in the not noticeably down-at-beel north London suburb of Golders Green, it will be some time before pawnbroking's palmy days are back.

In 1982 when the National Pawnbrokers' Association was formed, there were more than 3,000 shops.



Sitting pretty? Judith James and three ways a girl can present herself for the same job.

Jobs for the boys

Faced with an applicant for a job or promotion who sat like any one of the three poses in my picture, which one would you be most likely to choose?

The answer Cheryl Hughes gave me yesterday is: the applicant who sits as is fashion and deportment teacher Judith James in the middle photograph.

This, says Ms Hughes, is "relaxed, positive, attentive." As Ms Hughes is principal of the London Academy of



Modeling. I suppose I must defer to her professional judgment, although from my personal point of view the picture on the left has its charms.

That's just the point, says the principal — it's too sexy and, "most employers, men or women, don't approve of that sort of thing." At interview anyway, she adds.

"We were both able to agree about the pose on the right — 'couldn't care less', is how Ms Hughes describes it.

Girls from Caister High School at Great Yarmouth



will be in London today to hear all about this at "First Impressions", a one-day course for school leavers at the academy.

Ms Hughes told me yesterday that from the new year's would be First Impressions courses for boys as well.

The good news is that the boys' courses will omit the make-up advice (although "deportment, poise and posture" will still be taught). The bad news is that the teacher will not be Judith James but a man.

Scrum in Brum

Michael Heseltine, the Environment Secretary, came close to losing his cool at Wolverhampton yesterday. His opening address on the need to build new factories went down like a ton of dropped bricks with West Midlands industrialists struggling to meet their next pay roll.

Then, when he tried to hold a press conference, he had to compete with a noisy film sound track in an adjoining room.

Then local newspapermen said he was teaching his grandmother to suck eggs. Surely, they said any West Midlands businessman knows the advantages of investing in a recession — if he has the money.

Heseltine had one break. He travelled to Wolverhampton by road and so avoided 200 banner waving trade unionists protesting at the town's railway station.

It's the United States nuclear industry's turn to suffer fallout from Three Mile Island. The American Nuclear Society says that although the number of nuclear plants coming on-line is increasing, the supply of students enrolling in nuclear studies since the accident is falling.

Churchbury Estates Limited; The Law Land Company Limited

Interim Announcement

The directors have declared an interim dividend of 4.5p net per share, compared with an interim dividend of 4.0p net per share last year. The interim dividend will be payable on 11th January to shareholders on the register on 17th December.

The major event of the first half year was the acquisition of control of The Law Land Company. Churchbury's offer for that company has now closed and Churchbury owns 87.57 per cent of the ordinary shares of Law Land. As a result of this acquisition the net asset value per Churchbury share, 59p at 31st March 1981, has increased to 86.4p per share fully diluted assuming consolidation of the Law Land balance sheet at 31st December, 1980 and valuations announced during the offer period.

Mr. J. B. Evans and Mr. D. A. Lucie-Smith were appointed to the board during the half year, and both were appointed executive directors of Law Land in September. Mr. Evans as chairman and chief executive. The change in policies referred to in the offer document has begun satisfactorily.

The results of Law Land since 11th August, when it became a subsidiary of Churchbury, have not been consolidated. The results for the period to 31st March, 1982 will be consolidated together with the consolidated balance sheet at that date. Accounting policies of Law Land will be reviewed. Under existing policies the unaudited profits of Law Land attributable to Churchbury from 11th August to 30th September amounted to £105,272 before tax.

Since 31st March, 1981 investment properties of Churchbury, excluding Law Land, have been sold for a total of £1,761,000, an increase of 15% over their end March valuation figure of £1,532,000.

It is intended to change the Articles of Association at the time of the Annual General Meeting next year to enable the Company to buy its own equity as a result of the recent passing of the Companies Act 1981.

Ross Davies



"I'll do my best but it's difficult to know what would suit a redundant muppeteer."

Stock markets

Profit taking as interest hopes fade

Faced with little immediate prospect of a reduction in domestic interest rates the new account opened on a dull note yesterday.

The uncertainty made investors stand aside, leaving prices to open with small losses in thin trade. This was in sharp contrast to Friday's close which left the market, some brokers said, looking overbought.

Gilt led the way down yesterday with opening losses of around 1½p, which were extended to 2½p in long, as the market paused for reflection in the wake of last week's announcement of three mini tays totalling 5750m.

The sudden increase in stock around the market and other factors including the tight money market, as well as the prospect of industrial action by the miners, Ford workers and petrol tanker drivers, was a signal for profits to be taken.

In equities selling was evident in oils and electricals after recent strong gains, and it was again left to specialist situations to make the running. Metal Box was an early feature, rising 12p to 168p on better than expected half-time figures. But even this failed to inject new enthusiasm into the overall picture.

After fluctuating within narrow limits throughout the day, the FT index closed with a net loss of 2.4 at 517.3. This was an unusual performance taking into account that four of the constituents—Beecham, down 4p to 224p, Boots, down 6p to 191p, Lucas Industries, down 13p to 208p and Vickers, down 2p to 145p—were all in red.

Elsewhere among the leaders, movements were mixed. Fisons rose 3p to 126p, Courtaulds, reporting Thurs-

day, 1p to 68p, GKN 4p to 170p, Grand Met 3p to 176p, P & O 17½p to 125p and Tube Investments 6p to 104p. But Glaxo lost 2p to 430p, and Unilever 18p to 618p.

The long battle for Borec is expected to take on a new twist today as the price rose 4p to 130p amid speculation of a higher offer from Hanson Trust, down 6p to 278p.

On its bid deadline, Thomas Tilling, which recently countered Hanson's offer, rose 4p to 137p.

Ductile Steels was suspended 2p higher at 97p pending news of a bid. At present, privately owned Caparo Investments holds another 18 per cent.

Malite jumped 3p to 206p, still fighting off the advances of General Tire with 19.9 per cent of the equity following an offer of 200p a share. The W. Ward held steady at 186p after the £200m bid from RTZ which slipped 10p to 444p.

Tunnel Holdings "B", in which Ward holds 42 per cent of the shares, also held steady at 490p. But Chloride Group, in which RTZ holds an indirect stake of 17 per cent through CRA, rose 2p to 24p before closing unchanged at 22p.

The prospect of a counterbid Banks closed mixed, with

still loomed high at City Offices, 7p dearer at 127½, while Graycoat Estates, the bidder, also rallied 7p to 165p.

In builders, English China Clays saw a few speculative buyers, rising 4p to 148p amid hopes of the long-awaited bid from Consolidated Gold Fields. BFB Industries hardened 3p to 282p ahead of figures today, while Redland, reporting later in the week, rose 1p to 154p.

Favourable comment was also good for 3p on Bath & Portland at 63p.

Fears over trading prospects topped 10p from Turnbull Scott at 65p as a bullish brokers' circular boosted Hampton Gold 20p to 165p.

Blantyre Tea improved 4p to 91p on the increased terms from Eastern Produce. AG Securities made a quiet debut on the USM, closing 4p premium over the offer price of 80p.

Disappointing trading news clipped 2p from Associated Leisure at 85p, 1p from Dundonian at 58p and 2p from John Foster at 19p while improved performance added 2p to Avana at 240p, 18p to Vinten at 134p and 7p to Concentric at 37p.

Banks closed mixed, with

Barclays on 438p and National Westminster on 398p both unchanged, while Lloyds slipped 7p to 411p and Midland 2p to 311p.

Still awaiting the outcome of the monopolies report, Royal Bank of Scotland advanced 2p to 184p with Hongkong & Shanghai, reckoned to be favoured by the Government, 2p up at 139p. The other suits, Standard Chartered, was unchanged at 637p.

Oils lost ground, clouded by the threatened tanker drivers' dispute. Shell fell 8p to 392p, BP 4p to 322p, Ultramar 5p to 458p, Imperial 4p to 254p and Barmah 2p to 126p.

Equity turnover on November 20 was £172,267m (15,900 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange, were 1,250,000.

Active securities were Allotment, Metal Box, British Aero, Hampton Areas, English China Clays, Vinten, and Dundonian.

Traded options: Contracts amounted to 1,142 as puts were introduced in GEC. Imperial Group led the way on 210 contracts.

Traditional options saw calls in ICL on 61p, Royal Bank of Scotland on 13p, and Keith Collins on 21p with a put arranged in Birmah on 8p.

J. Foster forecasts profits in second half

By Margaret Pagano

Over the past three years, John Foster & Son, probably the largest mohair suit cloth maker in the world, has pushed up its exports to Japan from 25 per cent to nearly 40 per cent of group sales. This gives it some 65 per cent of the Japanese market for light-weight specialty mohair suits which sell under a variety of trade names.

Foster's growth in Japan helped the group to reduce losses in the six months to August to £548,700 from £748,000 last time.

Better margins on products and increased efficiency at the mills, despite static sales of £4.6m, helped, too, and the group is forecasting a turnaround to profits in the second half.

Seasonal factors mean the first half usually shows a loss. Most deliveries are made in the second half.

A break-even position is still a couple of years away but Mr Derek Gallimore, managing director, says that loss of £250,000 for the full year is within reach and means a dramatic £500,000 turnaround against last year's loss of £888,000.

Direct and indirect exports account for some three-quarters of sales and Foster's other main markets are the Middle East, and Germany. United Kingdom sales take about 20 per cent of output, but this reflects a sharp fall from 50 per cent ten years ago.

Shareholders received an unchanged gross half-time dividend of 0.7p.

Elswick-Hopper passes dividend

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Elswick-Hopper, the bicycles to agricultural machinery group, has made a half-year loss and passed its dividend because of a sharp drop in bicycle sales and poor demand in its engineering division.

Compared with pre-tax profits of £405,000 the group made a £282,000 loss in the six months to July 31. Turnover fell from £121m to £114m. The half-year dividend in the previous year was 0.74p gross.

With customers carrying high stocks for most of the year, the year is not unexpected, he said. As last year, the level of demand for bicycles in the traditional Christmas period returned to more normal levels but margins remain under pressure from importers who have been making large inroads into the United Kingdom market.

Mr James Turner, chairman, expects a better second-half results because of the improvement in the bicycles division and the better trend on the agricultural side. "I believe that the group is returning to profitability in the current six months but the outcome for the year is still uncertain," he said.

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Dundonian confident after strong start

By Our Financial Staff

Dundonian, the crematorium company which has expanded into property, natural resources and financial services, made pre-tax profits of £1.2m in the half year to September 30.

This compares with £833,000 in the same period a year ago. £1.33m in the year to last March.

Mr Max Lewinsohn, the chairman, says that despite the difficulties facing British industry, the company remains confident of a further advance in performance during the second half.

Turnover in the first half rose from £3.8m to £6.7m and fully diluted earnings per share were 39 pence up at 4.87p.

The half-year dividend is 2.5p gross on the capital as enlarged by the recent scrip issue. Mr Lewinsohn says that the dividend rise, which represents an exceptional increase of 50 per cent, will bring the interim and final dividends more closely in line, but should not be taken as a sign of the likely increase for the full year.

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Record first half at Vinten

Pre-tax profits of Vinten Group, a manufacturer of television camera mounting equipment, aerial reconnaissance systems and ground support equipment, jumped 76 per cent to a record £325,000 in the six months to September on turnover up from £3.3m to £5.1m.

RENTALS

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1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined by the method of Arar and Collins (1971) using a Shimadzu 101-UV spectrophotometer. The concentration of chlorophylls was expressed in $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ of the sample.

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IRA toy pistol bomb in London

By Craig Seton and David Nicholson-Lord

A booby-trapped toy pistol which injured two women, one seriously, at Woolwich barracks, south-east London, yesterday, exploded only half an hour before the area would have been busy with children off to school. The Provisional IRA claimed responsibility for the explosion, the fifth in its London campaign in six weeks.

Although police believe the pistol was left outside an Army administration headquarters to injure any member of the service who picked it up, it had lain on the pavement overnight and could have been spotted and touched by school-children as they left nearby married quarters and a large flats complex a few yards away.

Commander Mike Richards, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad, said the pistol, a replica of imitation automatic, was packed with a few ounces of explosives and was equipped with an anti-handling device.

It was the fifth different type of device the IRA unit operating in London had used and was a booby trap not seen on the mainland before.

The bomb exploded at 7.45 am outside Government House, the garrison headquarters of the Royal Artillery complex at Woolwich in Grand Depot Road. Two women, cleaners at the building and wives of soldiers serving at the barracks, were injured when one of the two dogs they were taking for a walk touched the pistol.

Dog's leg is blown off

Mrs Veronica Eadsforth, aged 35, received serious injuries to a foot and sustained surgery in hospital hours later. Mrs Edith Hewitson, aged 36, was severely shocked by the blast, which blew off the leg of Jasper, a 10-year-old Labrador. The other dog, an Alsatian, ran off in panic.

Commander Richards said the pistol had been seen in the gateway to Government House at 8.40 the previous night by someone who assumed it had been dropped by a child.

"I doubt if we have seen this sort of thing before in England," he said. "The public has to be extremely vigilant."

Mrs Hewitson said at her home in Gunner Lane, Woolwich, last night: "I am adamant that neither of us touched the gun after we saw it inside the gate on our way out of the building."

"It just went off as we were passing through the gate. My friend got the worst of it because she was standing near by."

"I am quite sure it was not there when we went in. The blast knocked me backwards, but did not knock me to the ground. I do not really remember much after that."

Mrs Hewitson said she had worked with Mrs Eadsforth, who is still in hospital, for about two years.

Mrs Doris Moore, aged 64, and her husband, Francis, who is blind, heard the bomb explode as they prepared breakfast in their flat overlooking Government House.

Mrs Moore said: "I ran over the road and saw two bodies lying on the ground. I knew it was a bomb. The police, fire and ambulance arrived within a few minutes and then they brought sniffer dogs and searched the area."

The Ministry of Defence confirmed yesterday that Government House was searched once every two hours during the night because of the fear of terrorist attacks. In November 1974 two men, one a soldier, died and thirty people were injured when the King's Arms public house opposite the barracks exploded.

Tested first in Ulster

The booby-trapped pistol took a stage further the Provisionals' disturbing practice of exporting their bomb and weapon technology to the mainland after thorough testing in Ulster.

Most of the devices that have long been commonplace in Northern Ireland, such as car bombs, nail bombs, cassettes and blast incendiaries, have been used on the mainland.

Anti-handling devices, like the incorporated in the Woolwich bomb, provide a further example. But perhaps the most worrying recent development is the use of remote-control bombs in London by the Provisionals.

The blast outside Chelsea barracks last night belonged to this category. There are two main types: those linked to the watching terrorist by several hundred metres of wire, and those detonated by radio signal.

The most common type of remote-control bomb is that used typically on roads near the border, where wires run to the terrorist in the south. Fear of booby-traps meant that it took ATOs two days to defuse a bomb of that type in Strabane, Co Tyrone, a fortnight ago.



Police guarding the entrance to the Polytechnic of Central London in Regent Street last night after about fifty students occupied the administration block to protest over economies being imposed. Twelve people were arrested during scuffles with police when about one thousand students gathered outside the building.

Dr Nims sells off his 3-D camera

By Ronald Pullen and Rupert Morris

Dr Jerry Nims, the 46-year-old American who has raised £250m in Britain for his controversial 3-D camera, has sold his personal interest in the company Nimsio Technology Ltd.

The camera was originally to go on sale at the end of 1979. Repeated delays have reinforced the sceptics' view that Eastman Kodak and the Japanese company Asahi for which Dr Nims once worked, were right when they abandoned 3-D in the late 1960s. But Dr Nims and his associates insisted yesterday that commercial production would begin next March from the Times factory in Dundee.

The sale of Dr Nims' interest, which was made in November 1980, was not disclosed until the issue of a new prospectus prepared by Barings, the merchant bank, dated October 27, 1981. "I personally got enough money so I would never have to work another day of my life," Dr Nims told *The Times* yesterday. "I am sitting here as a multi-millionaire." He

stays as salaried chairman at \$150,000 a year.

Who now owns Nimsio is not fully revealed. The Barings prospectus says: "In November 1980 all the assets of NIT (Nimsio Technology Incorporated) a company in which Dr J. C. Nims beneficially owned 46 per cent of the ordinary share capital, were acquired by Fairhaven Ltd, a Bermuda corporation which subsequently changed its name to Nimsio Technology Ltd."

The prospectus goes on to say that those interested in the share capital of NIT comprise Fred Olsen Ltd, other European shareholders and a charitable foundation of whose board of management Dr J. C. Nims and Mr J. B. Davidson are members.

Dr Nims refused to identify the foundation. "The foundation's name is important; it is important to the people that helped and where the money goes. I want to see as much money as can be legally and honestly generated come into that foundation to be used in ways that fit my particular philosophy of the world. I'm involved in projects to do with the underprivileged, the abused of the world, the disenfranchised of the world and the areas that we're working in where people are starving to death."

The foundation was he said, working in Somalia, Cambodia, with refugees in Portugal who had fled from Mozambique, and in eastern Europe with Jews and Christians who were being "cleansed".

Excited by Nimsio's forecasts that it should by 1985 win 4 per cent of the world photographic market, by which time the group could be making profits of more than £100m, British investors have pushed up the price of the shares to a high of £20 at one point in the past year. The company now has an estimated market value of around £250m.

The 3-D dreams of Dr Nims, page 17.

Schmidt's ultimatum

Continued from page 1

Nato viewed that a freeze of medium range weapons at their present level was unacceptable as it perpetuated the Soviet advantage.

West German experts suspected that Mr Brezhnev thought he was making the moralistic proposal more attractive by his added emphasis on withdrawing the SS20s from European territory, but said it appeared to differ little from earlier proposals already rejected.

Herr Schmidt also urged the Russians who want the Geneva negotiations to encompass all nuclear weapons systems in Europe, to concentrate first on medium-range missiles, since this is the most urgent problem, and then move on by stages to other systems.

Herr Schmidt assured the Soviet leader that President Reagan, whose serious intentions have been repeatedly questioned in Moscow in recent months, really did not want war.

Such a devious lot, these Crosby voters

Back to the Crosby by-election campaign for its final four days:

Both the Conservative and Social Democratic campaign staffs yesterday produced detailed figures showing that, according to canvass returns, a majority of voters had said they were going to vote for them. All of which caused one to ponder that, in the media, it is the politicians' untruths which tend to attract all the publicity. We seldom hear about those diligent, unsung little people who, year in and year out, without hope of personal advancement, lie on their hands off the voters.

Under the conventions of democracy one is supposed only to find fault with the politicians, never with the voters. But the latter have always struck me as being just as devious a group.

If yesterday's figures are correct, at Crosby the voters have fought what, even by rough and tumble by-election standards, has been an exceptionally dishonest campaign. They have been all things to all canvassers. Some voters have had no real policies at all. Moreover, they have consistently refused truthfully to answer the politicians' questions. No wonder Mrs Shirley Williams goes on so well with them.

For one suspects that when they lie to Tory canvassers they are lying even more than when they lie to Social Democratic canvassers. This being a deeply religious constituency, they do not lie so much to opinion pollsters. That is why the opinion polls have Mrs Williams well ahead.

This is consistent with common observation. Mrs Williams bustles up to a group of willing voters outside some shops as if she is also a woman who can't stop now because she's got some shopping to do. This is correct. She is shopping for them. Breathlessly, she finds time to tell them that there are no easy solutions, that these are terribly difficult problems, but that one thing is certain: neither Mr Thatcher nor Mr Benn have the answers.

Policies do not much come into it. On the rare occasions on which they do, she hurriedly explains that it is simply not what they want. "They say she said she is in favour of private education, private health, private enterprise and no doubt if she were pressed on the matter—private grief."

A few seconds later she is gone—leaving the voters to agree how wise she is and how she looks older/younger.

How did we know it was the same? It looked like any other Mrs. Mr. Burcher was rapidly regretting he raised the subject. "I think it was Karl Marx who made some remark about the yoke of the workers..." His voice trailed off. We stared at him in silence. Quickly, he changed the subject to the unions. He blamed them for Mrs. Burcher's troubles. This is the truth. It is bound to get him into trouble.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Tomorrow's events

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh attend reception to celebrate 75th anniversary of the Historical Association, 12. The Duke of Edinburgh, as president of the English Speaking Union, presents the 1981 English Language Competition prizes and presides at meeting of the English Language Committee at Buckingham Palace, 2; and as patron and trustee, holds a reception at Buckingham Palace for

Talks, lectures

"Death and the afterlife in pagan Celtic Britain", David Williams, 1.15. "The Japanese potter", Margaret Somerville, 11.30. British Museum. "The Dunch 17th Century Interior", Reiner Baeren, Lower Floor

The Friends of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, 6.

The Prince and Princess of Wales attend a performance of "Ritzy" at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, 7.30.

Exhibitions

"Planned and his contemporaries", Royal Academy, 7.30-8.30. Royal Society of Miniature Paintings, Sculptors and Gravers annual exhibition, Mail College, 10.5. Role of European Parliament, Upper Waiting Hall, Houses of Parliament.

Lunchtime music

Violino recital, Mariel Levin, St Martin-in-the-Fields, 1.15. The Collegium, 1.15. Andrew's Underneath, Clerical medical music in the City, St Andrew's Church, St Mary Axe, Leadenhall Street, 12.45.

Wells

City Churches, Monument Underground station, (Fish Street Hill exit), 1.30.

Light and the law

Drivers, by law, must switch on lamps at lighting-up time (see details, right) and use headlamps at night on all roads where there is no street lighting or where the street lamps are not lit. Headlamps must be used during the day whenever visibility is seriously reduced by fog, mist, heavy rain, smoke or any similar condition.

It is illegal to park at night on the off-side of the road, with or without lights, except in a one-way street.

Source: Central Office of Information.

Sporting fixtures

Football: League Cup, third round replay, West Bromwich Albion v West Ham United; 12 league matches and 10 FA Cup first round replays (see page 19). Rugby: National Hunt meetings, Southwell (12.15), Plumpton (1.00). Snooker: UK professional championship, Preston. Boxing: European middleweight title contest, Tony Sibson (holder) v Nicola Cretelli, at Wembley Arena (bill starts 7.30). Real Tennis: Open singles, Queen's Club, West Kensington. Motor rallying: Lombard-RAC event, second leg (Welsh stage).

Sport on TV

BBC2, Ray, 1981: Lymington, 1.45. BBC2, Ray, 1981: Lymington, 1.45.

TV top ten

National top television programmes in the week ending November 15:

- BBC 1**
- To, the Manor Born
 - Bergerac
 - Blankety Blank
 - Mastermind
 - Julia Grieve
 - Dad's Army
 - Julia Grieve
 - Julia Grieve
 - Julia Grieve
 - Julia Grieve

BBC 2

- Dee O'Connor Tonight
- The Borgeles
- M*A*S*H
- Kelly Montell
- Russell Hardy
- Tarzan-Escapes
- Gargan Hill (Tue)
- Your Life in the Hand
- The Last Song
- The Waltons

ITV

- Coronation Street (Wed)
- Coronation Street (Mon)
- Crossroads (Wed) ATV
- This is Your Life Thames
- Gargan Hill (Tue)
- Miss World 1981
- Crossroads (Tue) ATV
- Punchlines LWT
- Brude Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right LWT
- Bulleseye ATV

Today's anniversaries

Lawrence Sterne born at Clermont, 1713; Henry de Toulouse-Lautrec, 1864; John Knox, Scottish reformer, died, Edinburgh, 1572.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Transport (Finance) Bill, second reading. Lords (2.30): Civic Government (Scotland) Bill, second reading.

The Pound

	Bank	Mark
Australia \$	1.70	1.70
Belgium F	2.25	2.25
Canada \$	1.25	1.25
France F	1.25	1.25
Germany DM	1.25	1.25
Green \$	1.25	1.25
Hong Kong \$	1.25	1.25
Ireland P	1.25	1.25
Italy L	1.25	1.25
Japan Y	1.25	1.25
Netherlands Gld	1.25	1.25
Norway Kr	1.25	1.25
Portugal Esc	1.25	1.25
South Africa R	1.25	1.25
Spain Ptas	1.25	1.25
Sweden Kr	1.25	1.25
Switzerland Fr	1.25	1.25
USA \$	1.25	1.25

Notes for small denomination notes only, as supplied by the Bank of England.

London: The FT index fell 2.4 to 517.8.

New York: The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 351.79, down 1.4.

Auctions today

Christie's, King Street: fine English and Continental paintings, 11.30. Christie's, South Kensington: English and Continental glass, 14.30; old and modern furniture, 15.30; old and modern tapestries and furnishings, 16.30. Phillips, Bream's Lane: furniture, carpets, works of art, 11.30. Sotheby's, 101, Strand: 11.30. Sotheby's, 101, Strand: 11.30. Sotheby's, 101, Strand: 11.30.

The Queen's speech

The deaf and hard of hearing will be able to see a special hearing aid in place of the Queen's speech, which will be broadcast on BBC 2 at 10.30 am on Sunday, December 27.

The papers

The Government's latest attack on the media unions has more to do with winning votes than stopping the press. The Daily Mirror says: "This is why it comes just before the Crosby by-election."

Norman Thelme

Norman Thelme is leaving the BBC. He has been with the corporation for 10 years. He was in charge of the BBC's news coverage of the Falkland Islands conflict.

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Germany DM	1.25	1.25
Green \$	1.25	1.25
Hong Kong \$	1.25	1.25
Ireland P	1.25	1.25
Italy L	1.25	1.25
Japan Y	1.25	1.25
Netherlands Gld	1.25	1.25
Norway Kr	1.25	1.25
Portugal Esc	1.25	1.25
South Africa R	1.25	1.25
Spain Ptas	1.25	1.25
Sweden Kr	1.25	1.25
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Weather

A deep depression NE of Scotland will bring a ridge of high pressure, extending into W. Britain.

6 am to midnight

London: 5.5. Cloudy, light rain. 6.5. Cloudy, light rain. 7.5. Cloudy, light rain. 8.5. Cloudy, light rain. 9.5. Cloudy, light rain. 10.5. Cloudy, light rain. 11.5. Cloudy, light rain. 12.5. Cloudy, light rain. 1.5. Cloudy, light rain. 2.5. Cloudy, light rain. 3.5. Cloudy, light rain. 4.5. Cloudy, light rain. 5.5. Cloudy, light rain. 6.5. Cloudy, light rain. 7.5. Cloudy, light rain. 8.5. Cloudy, light rain. 9.5. Cloudy, light rain. 10.5. Cloudy, light rain. 11.5. Cloudy, light rain. 12.5. Cloudy, light rain. 1.5. Cloudy, light rain. 2.5. Cloudy, light rain. 3.5. Cloudy, light rain. 4.5. Cloudy, light rain. 5.5. Cloudy, light rain. 6.5. Cloudy, light rain. 7.5. Cloudy, light rain. 8.5. Cloudy, light rain. 9.5. Cloudy, light rain. 10.5. Cloudy, light rain. 11.5. Cloudy, light rain. 12.5. Cloudy, light rain. 1.5. Cloudy, light rain. 2.5. Cloudy, light rain. 3.5. Cloudy, light rain. 4.5. Cloudy, light rain. 5.5. Cloudy, light rain. 6.5. Cloudy, light rain. 7.5. Cloudy, light rain. 8.5. 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